

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 6, 1998

**THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
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LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
AUGUST 6, 1998

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Chairman Tom Gattle presiding.

Danny Babin
Norman McCall
Tom Kelly
Jerald Hanchey

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioners Glynn Carver and Bill Busbice were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **July 9, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Babin and seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose & Coot Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits was presented by Mr. Robert Helm. He began stating he had a video on the status of waterfowl habitat conditions and population levels. The preliminary forecast for the fall flight index is 84 million birds which is approximately 9 percent lower than last year. Production for snow geese and specklebellies was good this year, stated Mr. Helm. The increase in rainfall in June and July for the prairie region was an unusual occurrence and should provide excellent habitat for the broods and those that nest late. The framework has changed very little from last year, with a 60 day season and 6 bird bag limit. The only change was decreasing the daily bag for pintails from 3 to 1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended doubling the daily bag limit for snow geese from 10 to 20 and not have a possession limit. The framework extension to January 31 was removed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service again for this year. Mr. Helm then read the recommendations for the ducks, coots and goose seasons.

Duck Season for the West Zone: (60 days) November 7 - November 29 (23 days); and December 12 - January 17 (37 days)

East Zone and Catahoula Lake Zone: (60 days) November 14 - December 6 (23 days); and December 12 - January 17 (37 days)

Youth Waterfowl Day - December 5 in West Zone, January 23 in East Zone.

Daily Bag Limits - The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback and 2 redhead. Daily bag limit on coots is 15. The

daily bag limit and possession limits for mergansers is the same as last year.

Light Geese (snow and blue) - Statewide Season: November 7 - February 21 (107 days); daily bag limit (snow and blue)- 20 and no possession limit.

White-fronted (Speckle bellies): November 7 - November 29 (23 days); and December 12 - January 27(47 days); Daily Bag limit (speckle bellies) of 2 and Possession limit of 4.

Special Canada Goose Season from January 19 - January 27.

Chairman Gattle asked if this is a recommendation and at the September meeting a Declaration of Emergency would be ratified? Then he asked if a motion was needed to accept the tentative dates? Mr. Helm answered yes. Commission Hanchey made a motion accepting the tentative dates. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 1998.

- WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington D. C., and
- WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and
- WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and
- WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and
- WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 1998-99 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

Approval of 1998-99 Migratory Bird Season Dates & Bag Limits began with Mr. Dave Morrison reminding the Commission the staff presented tentative season dates for dove, teal, snipe, rails, gallinules and woodcock. These dates were adopted at the last meeting by the Commission and would remain the same if no changes occurred within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No changes occurred, so Mr. Morrison presented a Declaration of Emergency to adopt the season dates for this hunting season. Mr. Morrison then read the season dates. Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any comments and none were heard. The Chairman then asked Mr. Morrison to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings in Washington, D.C. have been held on early migratory bird season regulations that include dove, snipe, rail, gallinule, woodcock and teal, and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing early migratory bird season frameworks have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for migratory species that include season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the statutory responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for these migratory species within constraints established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission does hereby adopt the attached season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours for dove, teal, rails, gallinules, snipe and woodcock by Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these dates have been forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Louisiana's selections for early migratory bird seasons.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

The hunting seasons for early migratory birds during the 1998-99 hunting season shall be as follows:

MIGRATORY BIRDS OTHER THAN WATERFOWL

DOVE: Split Season, Statewide, 60 days
September 5 (Sat.)-September 13 (Sun.) 9 days
October 17 (Sat.)-November 6 (Fri.) 21 days
December 12 (Sat.)-January 10 (Sun.) 30 days
Daily bag limit 15, Possession Limit, 30

TEAL: September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
Daily bag limit 4, Possession limit 8, Blue-winged,
Green-winged and Cinnamon teal only. Federal and State
waterfowl stamps required.

RAILS: Split Season
September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) 54 days

KING AND CLAPPER: Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate,
Possession 30.

SORA AND VIRGINIA: Daily bag and possession 25 in the
aggregate.

GALLINULES: Split Season
September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) 54 days
Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 30

SNIBE: November 7 (Sat.)-February 21 (Sun.) 107 days
Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 16

WOODCOCK: December 18 (Fri)-January 31 (Sun.) 45 days
Daily bag limit 3, Possession 6

SHOOTING HOURS:

Teal, Rail, Snipe, Woodcock and Gallinule: One-half hour
before sunrise to sunset.

Dove: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset except on
September 5-6, October 17-18, and December 12-13 when shooting
hours will be 12:00 noon to sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory
species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities
to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits,
and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours
will become effective on September 1, 1998 and extend through
sunset on February 28, 1999.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mr. Hugh Bateman presented the next item, **Declaration of Emergency - Prohibition of Using Corn to Feed Wildlife**. Copies of a News Release and other articles on aflatoxin poisoning was handed to each Commissioner for their review. A lot of concern has been expressed in the farming community on the drought. Information from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the LSU Agriculture Center has shown elevated levels of aflatoxin poisoning in grain corn. Mr. Bateman then gave background information on aflatoxins and how there have been incidences in the past where wildlife has been affected. Peanuts and corn are two grains that can contain this aflatoxin. There are FDA regulations on contaminated corn that prevents it from being marketed for human consumption and livestock feed. An estimated 700,000 acres of corn was planted this year and once this problem was discovered, the agriculture people started sampling the corn fields to determine the aflatoxin levels. The Department does not have a lot of technical information that tells how much and at what contamination level this grain will affect wildlife. Mr. Bateman then stated deer are very resistant to aflatoxin, but the younger and smaller animals may have more debilitating problems. All forms of birds are particularly susceptible. With the problems occurring, the contaminated corn may be sold at lower prices by uniformed people and stored for long periods of time. Storing this corn for long periods of time could be harmful if fed to wildlife. Mr. Bateman stated one of his first contacts was with the Cooperative Wildlife Disease Research Center at the University of Georgia. After discussing this problem with a lot of different experts and his staff, and knowing the responsibility of the Wildlife Division and Department, Mr. Bateman recommended prohibiting the use of corn as a wildlife food in Louisiana for at least the remainder of this year and next year. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bateman to read the Resolution for the record. Then he asked what mechanism will be used to determine the levels of aflatoxin and that there is a threat to wildlife? Chairman Gattle stated he was told there would be a moratorium for a certain period of time and then look at the situation; however, two proposals were given which did not give a specific timeframe. Mr. Bateman stated a Declaration of Emergency only covers a 120 day period. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission would have to renew the Declaration of Emergency? Mr. Don Puckett stated, the way the Resolution reads the Commission could give the Secretary authority to take further action. Mr. Bateman then stated, acting with an abundance of caution, they would like to maintain the ban and protect wildlife until the problem is over. Chairman Gattle stated this is a very emotional issue and everyone should try to make a determination based on fact. Commissioner Babin asked if the Department of Agriculture has the capability of testing? Then he stated if there is a mechanism within another agency, it was hoped there could be a spirit of cooperation. Mr. Bateman stated the Department of Agriculture is who the Department would have to depend on for testing information. Commissioner Hanchey asked if this is the first year this problem has occurred? Mr. Bateman stated this is

the first year the Department has become concerned because of the level of the problem. His experience has shown that when an animal gets sick, they seek darkness and cover and generally no one ever sees them. Commissioner McCall asked if corn was prohibited, what alternative could be used for feed? Mr. Bateman stated wheat, soybeans, milo, and sunflower seeds are just a few. Commissioner Babin asked if aflatoxins was checked in the fields before harvesting? Chairman Gattle asked for a representative from the Department of Agriculture or the LSU Ag Center to speak on this issue.

Mr. Raymond Schexnayder, a farmer in Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge Parishes, stated the Department of Agriculture came out and discovered he has aflatoxin at a ratio of 5 ppb. The corn he harvested is being delivered to exporters and these exporters has a restriction of 20 ppb. The Department of Agriculture has 11 stations throughout the State for farmers to send their samples for testing. Mr. Schexnayder stated he has been selling corn to deer hunters either cleaned and bagged or just loose. He then commented aflatoxin will not build up if the corn is dried down to 13 percent moisture and kept in good condition. He felt the panic button was being hit too soon.

Mr. Al Ortego, La. Cooperative Extension Service, stated there are 11 testing locations throughout the State. The purposes of these stations was to prevent harvesting of the corn if their levels were too high and would also be used as the official testing for crop insurance purposes to determine if a field has zero value. The Food and Drug Administration guidelines for the use of aflatoxins corn is based on domesticated animals fed a complete diet and is different from those animals fed in the wild. Chairman Gattle asked what regulatory agency is overseeing the sale of deer corn in a bag in this State? Then he asked if the Department of Agriculture was testing for aflatoxin on a regular basis? Mr. Ortego could not answer the Chairman's questions. Commissioner Babin asked how long has it been known there was a problem with aflatoxin?

Mr. Michael Naquin stated aflatoxin has been here for years. To stop farmers from selling their good crop is ludicrous since 2/3 of this year's crop has been lost. He also felt the deer and other wildlife will suffer with the prohibition. Mr. Naquin stated there was no research nor documentation to support the prohibition. He then stated he did not feel any farmer would sell bad corn to humans, cattle farmers or for wildlife. Chairman Gattle stated he was very concerned about importing corn to north Louisiana to feed deer. It is true aflatoxin is in the soil all the time and it attacks the plants in years of stress. This year there have been much higher concentrations of the aflatoxins found in the grains. Mr. Naquin stated the wrapping of the corn, variety of corn and the handling of the corn makes a difference. Ninety percent of the loads are being accepted. Commissioner Babin asked if a farmer

sends a load of grain to an elevator and it is rejected, where does that grain end up? Mr. Naquin stated the farmers will blend it with other corn and if it meets the levels, they sell and ship it.

Mr. Donald Courville, a grain farmer for 26 years, stated this was a management problem and there is no tool to manage this problem. The problem needs to be managed by the Department of Agriculture for all corn that is sold by probing the corn sacks and testing for aflatoxin. The drought has caused less natural foods for wildlife and the corn this year will be a valuable commodity for the wildlife. This fungus is a naturally occurring toxin and needs to be managed at safe levels. Prohibiting the use of corn is not the answer to the problem. Also prohibiting the use of corn for feed will put him out of business.

Mr. Ralph Willie asked if the aflatoxin problem was in the corn or the trash? Mr. Courville stated the problem was in the immature grains, the damaged kernels and somewhat on the cob pieces. The two things fungus needs to grow is moisture and temperature and when it is dried to 12 or 13 percent moisture, it will be at a safe storage level. Mr. Courville then stated the Department needs to educate the public on this problem.

Mr. Joe Cagnolatti, National Wild Turkey Federation, stated they had a board meeting and adopted a resolution to support the Department's recommendation for a temporary ban on the use of corn for feeding wildlife. Turkeys will come to corn and the smaller the animal, the worse the problem.

Dr. Don Reed, La. Cooperative Extension Service, stated it was not only a management problem but also an educational problem. There is some bad corn, but also a lot of good corn and educating people on how to disseminate the good corn to wildlife would be the approach to take. If the corn is bought from a grain elevator, that operator will not take the chance of buying corn with high levels of aflatoxin which could pose a threat to wildlife. Commissioner McCall asked about the corn bought from Wal-Mart? Dr. Reed stated he did not know where these type stores get their corn from. Chairman Gattle stated rules are made for those that do not have a good conscience. Then he stated, in managing a resource, there are people that are going to have to suffer at some point. Chairman Gattle felt, with their being no regulatory authority over this, either the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the Department of Agriculture should monitor this activity. He expressed concern over finding aflatoxin levels of 1000, 1200 and 1500 ppb in corn.

Commissioner Kelly asked Mr. Courville what steps does he take to ensure the specialty corn he sells is within the safe limits? Mr. Courville stated he has the liability to stand behind his corn and to make sure his product is good and clean. He then explained how testing for aflatoxin has become sophisticated since the use of

a black light. The Department of Agriculture is providing free testing for the corn.

Commissioner Babin asked, if the regulation is adopted, who will regulate it and what will the penalty be for selling corn? Chairman Gattle thought it would be a Class II violation. Mr. Puckett stated it is a Class II violation, first offense is \$100 to \$350 fine, second offense, \$300 to \$550 fine. Chairman Gattle asked if the violation occurs at the point of sale or the act of feeding corn to wildlife? Mr. Puckett answered it would be the act of feeding itself. Commissioner Babin stated if the Food and Drug Administration finds salmonella in chickens, they do not ban chickens entirely. He felt there was a problem with aflatoxin, but stopping the sale of corn may not be the solution.

Mr. Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, stated the bigger issue is hunting and how to hunt. The position of the Federation is, if it can be avoided at all, you should not be putting anything into the environment that will put wildlife resources at risk. He then stated, if you are going to make an error, error on the side of caution. Mr. Lanctot stated they would support the Commission if they take the cautious approach and put the temporary ban in effect.

Mr. Raymond Schexnayder stated this regulation will put the local farmers that sell deer corn out of that business. If the corn has a high level of aflatoxin, the farmer will plow it under and the deer will probably eat it anyway.

Commissioner McCall asked Mr. Bateman if there was any data that showed any deer or turkey died this year from eating the corn? Mr. Bateman answered no. He then stated it was not the clean corn that is a problem, but the availability of the waste corn. The Southeastern Disease Study has urged using a cautionary approach in allowing this to continue. Mr. Bateman stated they will work with the Department of Agriculture to find a way to control this problem. The reason for the request was because there was no way to tell the difference between the bad corn and good corn. Commissioner McCall asked how will it be known that animals will die from this corn if there are no cases or problems right now? Mr. Bateman stated the only thing they can do is rely on the advice of the experts and the fact that this problem is out there. Commissioner McCall stated, as of right now, he does not see that there is a problem.

Mr. Jeff Devall asked what will he have to do with the corn he has planted that he plans to hunt over? He then commented the problem with the wild turkeys is timber management and not corn.

Mr. Donald Courville stated his corn was tested and the results were 4 ppb on yellow corn and 6 ppb on his white corn. He then asked to manage the corn on a wildlife level. He recommended

getting with the Department of Agriculture and setting up standards. Chairman Gattle stated management of corn would not happen "today". He then asked the Commissioners to consider the best route to go with the aflatoxin levels of 1000 ppb.

Mr. Glen Redd stated there is no data to prove something is happening or that is going to happen. He then commented once an activity is shut down, it is hard to open it up again. He asked the Commission to think before taking any action, gather more data and do more testing.

Mr. Mike Rhodes stated he did not see why good, clean, bagged corn could not be bought and sold and outlaw the barreled corn. Because of the drought, Mr. Rhodes felt the fall will be rough for the animals in the woods. Chairman Gattle stated, if an Agent goes into the woods and sees corn on the ground, how will he know if it came from a bag or from the field. He then stated the issue was to either ban it completely for 120 days or to allow it with a strong recommendation to use properly tested corn. Mr. Rhodes stated he did not know if it can be managed.

Commissioner Babin asked if the moratorium has to be for 120 days, can it be for 30 days, and what options does the Commission have besides yes or no? Mr. Puckett stated the Declaration of Emergency can be effective for any period of time up to 120 days. Commissioner Babin stated a 30 day ban would give the Commission more time to gather information and it would not hurt the farmers as much as a 120 day ban. Chairman Gattle asked if this item could be deferred until the next meeting? Mr. Puckett stated the Commission could defer this item and take it up again at the next meeting as a Declaration of Emergency. Commissioner Babin asked if there are any options in place to study this problem and gather more information? Mr. Puckett stated if deferred today, it could be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Chairman Gattle asked if there was a motion to adopt the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency. No motion was made. Mr. Puckett recommended announcing the Commission's intent to revisit this issue. Commissioner Babin made a motion to place this item on the September agenda with the Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries and Agriculture providing more information in hopes of protecting wildlife. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

A Notice of Intent on the 1999 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations was presented by Mr. Mike Olinde. He began his slide presentation stating the State is divided into three turkey hunting areas. The recommended hunting season dates for Area A is March 27 through April 25 (30 days) except for Kisatchie National Forest which will have season dates of March 27 through April 18. Area B dates are April 3 through April 18 (16 days) and Area C will be March 27 through April 4 (9 days). A significant change in Area A was opening the season one week later and reducing the number of days by seven. The number of days for that portion of Kisatchie

National Forest within Area A was reduced by 14 days. Area B is recommended to open one week earlier and Area C is recommended to open one week later. Twenty-four wildlife management areas will have seasons in 1999 which includes Bayou Macon this year. Mr. Olinde explained the reasons for the structure changes with the hope of having one opening date in the State. He then stated they were informed by landowners of fairly large turkey declines but could not confirm these reports. Other possible contributors to the turkey decline was timber activities, poor reproduction, diseases and reduced wildlife habitat. From the Office of Forestry, statistics from 1991 showed over 43 percent of the pine lands were now planted pine and this represents an increase of 125 percent over what it was in 1984. A slide was shown on the data from volunteer check stations in the Florida Parishes. Also shown was a slide on Mississippi's turkey harvest. A research study was conducted in the Florida parishes and one of the things that concerns the staff is the adult harvest rate. The staff hopes to increase the adult segment, buffer the effect of annual production and possibly have one opening date for the turkeys. The results of a mail survey conducted this past year was explained by Mr. Olinde. Hearing no questions, Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Olinde to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

Mr. Donald Courville asked Mr. Olinde what contributed to the decline in turkey populations, was it timber practicing and harvesting? Mr. Olinde stated, on a large scale, the decrease was mainly caused by a decline in habitat quality and disease to some extent.

After hearing no further discussion, the motion was accepted with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 1999 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered all available biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby adopted as a Notice of Intent by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its August meeting does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of wild turkeys.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly

placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La. 126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Morganza, on the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlang to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B

April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C

March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements	Lottery Dates**
Bayou Macon	April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Bens Creek†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Big Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Bodcau	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Boeuf	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Camp Beauregard	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31
Fort Polk	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Georgia-Pacific	April 3-April 11	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Grassy Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Jackson-Bienville	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Little River	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18	Self-clearing	April 10-11 April 17-18
Pearl River	March 27-April 11	Self-clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None

Red River	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Sabine	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4
Sandy Hollow†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Sherburne	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31
Sicily Island	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11
Three Rivers	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11

*Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are CLOSED. For seasons on smaller lands managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contact the local district office.

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1999.

†No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

Kisatchie National Forest Turkey Hunting Schedule: Caney Ranger District, April 3-18; Winn Ranger District closed except Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, March 27-April 18; all other Kisatchie National Forest Districts, March 27-April 18.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondences to other agencies of government.

Additionally, interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until October 23, 1998 to Hugh A. Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Reconvening from a break, Major Keith LaCaze stated he provided a copy of the **Monthly Law Enforcement Report** and Aviation Report for July. The report included, as requested, the town where the region offices are located and the list of parishes in that region. The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of July was 1,825 with the primary violations being in the area of boating. The aviation report showed the 210 plane with zero hours, this was because the pilot transferred to another agency.

Major LaCaze stated he attended the Mississippi Flyway Council Meeting and they reviewed the waterfowl-related citations issued in the Flyway. The biggest violations was use or possession of lead shot, illegal shooting hours and hunting without required stamps. Of the 3,836 citations issued in the Flyway, 686 or 17.8 percent were issued in Louisiana. Commissioner Babin asked if Louisiana has a lot more hunters than the other states in the Flyway? Major LaCaze stated there is a lot more hunter participation in Louisiana. Chairman Gattle asked if agents issue warnings? Major LaCaze stated they are in the process of creating a warning citation and will start issuing written warnings this year. Secretary Jenkins stated the warnings equal to about 50 percent of the total tickets for the Flyway and if you include the warning tickets, the total percent for Louisiana would drop to about 11 percent.

Mr. Don Lee presented the next agenda item, **Rule - Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir**. A Notice of Intent was passed in April to prohibit netting in this 2,500 acre reservoir located in Red River Parish. The reservoir is included in the Quality Lake Management System. The local Lake Commission requested the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopt a rule to prohibit netting. Since there is no significant commercial fishery in the reservoir, and there was no response to public comments on the proposed rule, Mr. Lee asked the Commission to adopt the rule prohibiting netting. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Rule. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Rule is made a part of the record.)

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts a rule prohibiting commercial netting in the John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§185. Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the possession and/or use of commercial nets, including, but not limited to, gill nets, trammel nets, flagg nets, hoop nets, wire nets and fish seines in John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir located in Red River Parish.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: (August 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency on the 1998 Fall Shrimp Season was given by Mr. Mark Schexnayder. Based on biological samples, the white shrimp in all inshore waters will average 100 count or larger by mid-August. With this information and from staff recommendations, the Division suggested opening the fall shrimp season statewide at sunrise, August 17, 1998 and to close at sunset, December 21, 1998 with one exception. This exception is leaving the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds open until March 31, 1999. Also, Mr. Schexnayder requested the Commission grant the Secretary authority to change the closing date if data indicates or an enforcement problem exists. Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. Schexnayder to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner McCall. Chairman Gattle asked if Zones 1, 2 and 3 will open at the same time and close at the same time except for that portion in Zone 1? Commissioner Babin stated the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds are still open and is basically open waters for the State. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count; and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in all inshore shrimp zones will average 100 count minimum size or larger by mid-August; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open statewide at official sunrise August 17, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the Mississippi State line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, and

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, and

Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line,

all to open at official sunrise August 17, 1998.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m. March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mr. Ron Dugas handled the **Declaration of Emergency for the 1998-99 Oyster Season, Public Grounds**. The season to be set is on the public grounds, should not be confused with the leased areas, within the timeframe prescribed by law. There are approximately 2 million acres of public oyster grounds. Mr. Dugas then recommended opening an area east of the Mississippi River, the sacking area only of Lake Machias and Lake Fortuna, Bay Junop and an area in the Vermilion Bay-Atchafalaya Complex on September 9. The Sister Lake area in Terrebonne Parish has a good supply and it was recommended to open for a 12 day period from October 5 through October 16, 1998. The Calcasieu tonging area is recommended to open October 16, 1998 and run through April 30, 1999. Commissioner Babin asked what area is Sister Lake alternated with? Mr. Ron Dugas stated

Sister Lake is alternated with Bay Junop. Chairman Gattle asked how many acres are in the public grounds? Mr. Dugas stated there is approximately 2 million acres. Then the Chairman asked how many acres of leased grounds are there? Mr. Dugas answered 400,000 acres. Then he stated approximately 80,000 sacks were harvested from the Calcasieu area which is almost double that taken from the previous season. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it was approved with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

1998/99 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 1998
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be opened on the Wednesday following Labor Day which in 1998 is September 9, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Oyster Seed Reservation" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, Act #46 of the 1992 Legislative Session changed R.S. 56:433B to mandate a sacking area only on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Bay Gardene, Hackberry Bay, and Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservations not currently under lease will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from one-half hour before sunrise October 5, 1998 to one-half hour after sunset October 16, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary will also have the authority to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the season for Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1998 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

1. The Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease, Bay Junop, Bay Gardene Oyster and Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservations will open one-half hour before sunrise September 9, 1998.

2. The Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from October 5 to October 16, 1998.

3. A designated sacking only area east of the Mississippi River will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998. The sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

4. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads.

5. The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource subsides.

6. The Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1998 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1999.

7. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Rule on the Dealer Receipt Form began with Mr. Joey Shepard stating a Notice of Intent was approved in April. There were no written comments received on the Notice of Intent. Mr. Shepard then informed the Commission of one addition since the Notice of Intent and that was adding "8. Duration of trip". Commissioner Babin asked what is the penalty for false information on the documents and where does the burden lie? Mr. Don Puckett stated the burden will be with the Department to demonstrate that someone intentionally falsified. Lt. Jeff Mayne stated failure to report commercial information is a Class III violation. The fine for filing false documents is a felony, \$1,000 to \$3,000. Chairman Gattle asked if a motion was needed to ratify the rule? Commissioner Kelly made such a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Rule is made a part of the record.)

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.201) implementing dealer receipt forms, and repeal a Rule (LAC 76:VII.203) implementing the commercial fisherman's sales report form. Authority for adoption of the Rule is included in R.S. 56:303.7(B), 56:306.4(E) and 56:345.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 2. General Provisions

§201. Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card; Dealer Receipt Form-Design and Use

A. The "Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card" shall be provided by the Department in lieu of the commercial fisherman's license. The card will be embossed with the following information:

1. Commercial fisherman's name;
2. Commercial license number;
3. Commercial fisherman's social security number;
4. Expiration date;
5. Residency status.

B. The card shall be presented by the commercial fisherman to the dealer at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

C. The dealer receipt form shall be a three-part numbered form provided by the Department. The dealer receipt form shall be completed when fish are purchased or received from commercial fishermen. The receipt form shall represent the actual transaction between the commercial fisherman and the dealer. The dealer shall fill out the receipt form in its entirety containing all of the information required in §201.D and E with the exception of the commercial fisherman's signature that shall be recorded by the fisherman. The "Dealer's Copy" of the receipt shall be maintained on file at the dealer's place of business or where the fish are received. The dealer shall maintain the receipts for a period of 3 years. The "Department Copy" portion of the dealer receipt form shall be returned to the Department by the dealer by the tenth of each month to include purchases made during the previous month. Along with the receipts for each month, the dealer shall submit a "Monthly Submission Sheet" provided by the Department that certifies that the transactions submitted represent all of the transactions by that dealer from commercial fishermen for that particular month. The "Monthly Submission Sheet" shall fulfill the reporting requirements in R.S. 56:345. The dealer shall mail completed receipt forms to a pre-determined address designated by the Department. Dealers are responsible for obtaining dealer receipt forms from the Department by calling a pre-determined phone number.

D. The commercial fisherman is responsible for providing the following information to the dealer at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

1. Commercial fisherman's name;
2. Commercial fisherman's license number;
3. Information on commercial gear used;
4. Information on vessel used;
5. Information on location fished;
6. Permit numbers for species requiring a permit to harvest;
7. Commercial fisherman's signature;
8. Duration of trip.

E. The dealer is responsible for recording on the dealer receipt form that information provided by the commercial fisherman in §201.D and is responsible for the following information at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

1. Dealer's name;
2. Dealer's license number;
3. Commercial fisherman's name;
4. Commercial fisherman's license number;
5. Species purchased;
6. Quantity and units of each species purchased;
7. Size and condition of each species purchased;
8. Transaction date;
9. Unit price of each species purchased;
10. Dealer's signature;
11. Permit numbers for species requiring a permit to harvest;
12. Commercial fisherman's signature.

F. Dealers may designate an agent to sign the dealer receipt form for them however, in all cases the dealer shall remain responsible for the actions of their agent.

G. All records and receipt forms shall be available and produced upon demand to any duly authorized agent of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division or department auditor.

H. Effective date of §201.A and B is upon publication in the Louisiana Register. Effective date for §201.C-G will be January 1, 1999.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:303.7(B), 56:306.4(E) and 56:345.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 18:81 (January 1992), repromulgated LR 18:198 (February 1992), amended LR 20:323 (March 1994), amended by the Office of Fisheries, LR 21:477 (May 1995), LR 22:373 (May 1996), amended by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (August 1998).

§203. Commercial Fisherman's Sales Report Form

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:345(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 18:82 (January 1992), repromulgated LR 18:198 (February 1992), amended LR 20:323 (March 1994), amended by the Office of Fisheries, LR 21:477 (May 1995), LR 22:373 (May 1996), repealed by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (August 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mr. Harry Blanchet presented the **Notice of Intent - Harvest Regulations on Billfishes**. This action will establish rules for billfish which are large, offshore, saltwater fish with very long noses. These include swordfish, sailfish and marlins. The vast majority of the harvest comes from Federal waters offshore. These regulations will be compatible with those regulations offshore to enhance enforcement. Mr. Blanchet felt this Department gets information on regulations out to the public better than the Federal Government. He then went over several portions of the Notice of Intent, such as the minimum size limits, permits for the commercial harvest of swordfish, recreational permits for those who fish tournaments that harvest billfishes, creel limits for swordfish and seasonal closures. Chairman Gattle asked if there were regulations for permits now for the taking of these fish? Mr. Blanchet stated no, but there is a federal requirement for the permits to be there. Then Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Blanchet to explain the permits. He also asked what was the contemplated cost for the permits and what is the cost of the federal permit now? Mr. Blanchet read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

BILLFISH HARVEST RULES

WHEREAS, the billfish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are primarily managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has adopted size limits and permit regulations for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, adoption of compatible regulations for Louisiana state waters would enhance effectiveness and enforceability of the regulations already in place for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set possession limits, quotas, places, seasons, times, size limits and daily take limits based upon biological and technical data limits for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to provide for size limits, bag limits, permit regulations, and a framework for seasonal closures for billfishes in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate a rule (LAC 76:VII.355) providing for regulations on the harvest of billfishes, including marlins, sailfish and swordfish. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§355. Harvest Regulations - Billfishes

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of billfishes including marlins, sailfish and swordfish within and without Louisiana's territorial waters. For purposes of this Section, the following words and phrases have the meaning ascribed to them in this subsection, unless the context clearly shows a different meaning:

Carcass Length: curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.

Dressed Weight: the weight of the carcass after it has been gutted, headed, and finned.

Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL): straight-line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.

Trip: a fishing trip, regardless of the number of days duration, that begins with departure from a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp and that terminates with return to a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp.

B. Minimum Size Limits: No person shall possess any fish smaller than the minimum size limit.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>
1. Blue Marlin	96 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
2. White Marlin	66 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
3. Sailfish	57 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
4. Swordfish	29 inches carcass length or 33 pounds dressed weight

C. Recreational Creel Limit: Recreational fishing vessels shall not possess more than five swordfish per vessel per trip. Swordfish taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered, or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged or bartered.

D. Gamefish: Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 56 §327(A)(1)(b)(i) designates sailfish (Istiophorus platypterus), blue marlin (Makaira nigricans), black marlin (Makaira indica), striped marlin (Tetrapturus audax), hatchet marlin (Tetrapturus spp.), and white marlin (Tetrapturus albidus) as saltwater gamefish. This rule does not affect the designation of gamefish

status, which is retained by the legislature (R.S. 56:6(25)(a)). Vessels engaged in commercial fishing shall not possess any of these species.

E. Permits

1. Recreational: Tournament operators: A person conducting a tournament involving scorekeeping or awards for Atlantic billfish (whether or not retained), must register with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

2. Commercial - Swordfish:

a. The owner of a vessel of the United States or a vessel that fishes for or possesses swordfish, or takes swordfish as incidental catch, regardless of whether retained, must possess a valid commercial permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish. This permit must be aboard the vessel and available for inspection by agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division. The captain of the vessel is also responsible to ensure the validity and possession of the permit aboard the vessel before retaining, possessing, selling or attempting to sell swordfish.

b. A Wholesale/Retail dealer who first receives swordfish must have been issued a valid dealer permit under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish. This dealer permit must be in possession of the Wholesale/Retail dealer and available for inspection by agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division.

F. All persons fishing for swordfish, or persons receiving any swordfish from fishermen, who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any swordfish, or possess any swordfish in excess of a recreational creel limit.

G. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessels on state or federal waters.

H. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any swordfish in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial permit was issued.

I. Seasonal Closures. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close any recreational or commercial fishery for marlins or swordfish, within and without Louisiana's territorial waters, when the Secretary is

notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that the seasonal quota for that species and fishery has been met. The closure order shall close the fishery until the date projected for the re-opening of that fishery in the adjacent Federal waters. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to modify any such closure order to maintain consistency with re-opening dates in the adjacent Federal waters, should the Federal closure dates be modified.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to October 1, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation was the next item and was handled by Ms. Marianne Burke. The date for National Hunting and Fishing Day is set for September 26, 1998. Louisiana has four sites and include Baton Rouge, Minden, Monroe and Natchitoches. This day is the largest public relations event for this Department. Commissioner Babin stated this is a great program and the Department does a good job. Chairman Gattle concurred and encouraged as many people as possible to participate in this event. Ms. Burke read the Therefore portion of the Proclamation. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Proclamation and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Proclamation
is made a part of the record.)

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Louisianians are blessed with an abundance and diversity of game, fish and seafood that hunters, fishers and commercial industries have long appreciated and recognized the need to conserve, and

WHEREAS, revenues raised by sportsmen and commercial industries have successfully returned some animal species that faced extinction or were threatened or endangered by environmental conditions often imposed by people to healthy populations; and

WHEREAS, hunters and anglers have a long history of contributing to conservation efforts statewide and nationwide, contributing more than \$12 billion to conservation programs during the past half a century through license fees and self-imposed excise taxes, and

WHEREAS, a recent survey by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that 56 percent of all Louisianians participate in some type of fish or wildlife-related activity, and

WHEREAS, latest figures indicate that the total economic impact of wildlife-related activities, including hunting and non-consumptive usage, in Louisiana is more than \$1 billion and that Louisianians directly spend \$656 million on hunting and other wildlife-associated recreation, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana residents have spent an \$29.4 million on fishing and hunting licenses during the last three years, and

WHEREAS, the state's warm Gulf waters and fertile estuarine systems are home to more than 100 commercially valuable seafood species, making Louisiana's marine fisheries one of the most important in the nation with more than 1.4 billion pounds landed annually for a dockside value of approximately \$306 million, with more than 150,000 people directly and indirectly employed in harvesting, processing, wholesaling, and distribution of Louisiana seafood;

THEREFORE I, Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, State of Louisiana, hereby proclaim Saturday, September 26, 1998 as the

14th ANNUAL
LOUISIANA NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

throughout the state of Louisiana in recognition of the economic contributions of the hunting and fishing industry and in acknowledgment of the sport enjoyed by so many of our citizens.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission


Chairman Gattle then asked for **Division Reports**. Secretary Jenkins stated he provided each Commissioner with a newspaper article on extending state waters out to 9 miles. This has been an on-going discussion with the Department, the Governor's Office and Congress for several weeks. Secretary Jenkins stated this Department could not take on Coast Guard duty with no new monies and no time. A rough estimate to take on this additional duty was several million dollars. The Governor agreed with Secretary Jenkins. He concluded stating it was voted down.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **December 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, December 3, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Leonard Hensgens, a member of the U.S. Waterfowl Habitat Program and in Louisiana known as Quackback, stated they took on a project with the North American Waterfowl Agreement. They wanted to flood 1 million acres of harvested rice fields for resting and breeding grounds. This was accomplished this past year. Mr. Hensgens then stated his Committee requested the no creeping law be removed in order to reduce the numbers of snow and blue geese.

Commissioner Babin made a motion to go into Executive Session on **Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC**. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Reconvening from Executive Session with no action taken and there being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. This motion passed with no opposition.


James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

8/20/98

Marianne -
Please review the
attached Minutes.

Thanks,
Susan

MB
8/20

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Residing.

Jerald Hanchey

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioners Glynn Carver and Bill Busbice were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **July 9, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Babin and seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose & Coot Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits was presented by Mr. Robert Helm. He began stating he had a video on the status of waterfowl habitat conditions and population levels. The preliminary forecast for the fall flight index is 84 million birds which is approximately 9 percent lower than last year. Production for snow geese and specklebellies was good this year, stated Mr. Helm. The increase in rainfall in June and July for the prairie region was an unusual occurrence and should provide excellent habitat for the broods and those that nest late. The framework has changed very little from last year, with a 60 day season and 6 bird bag limit. The only change was decreasing the daily bag for pintails from 3 to 1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended doubling the daily bag limit for snow geese from 10 to 20 and not have a possession limit. The framework extension to January 31 was removed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service again for this year. Mr. Helm then read the recommendations for the ducks, coots and goose seasons.

Duck Season for the West Zone: (60 days) November 7 - November 29 (23 days); and December 12 - January 17 (37 days)

East Zone and Catahoula Lake Zone: (60 days) November 14 - December 6 (23 days); and December 12 - January 17 (37 days)

Youth Waterfowl Day - December 5 in West Zone, January 23 in East Zone.

Daily Bag Limits - The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback and 2 redhead. Daily bag limit on coots is 15. The

daily bag limit and possession limits for mergansers is the same as last year.

Light Geese (snow and blue) - Statewide Season: November 7 - February 21 (107 days); daily bag limit (snow and blue)- 20 and no possession limit.

White-fronted (Speckle bellies): November 7 - November 29 (23 days); and December 12 - January 27(47 days); Daily Bag limit (speckle bellies) of 2 and Possession limit of 4.

Special Canada Goose Season from January 19 - January 27.

Chairman Gattle asked if this is a recommendation and at the September meeting a Declaration of Emergency would be ratified? Then he asked if a motion was needed to accept the tentative dates? Mr. Helm answered yes. Commission Hanchey made a motion accepting the tentative dates. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington D. C., and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 1998-99 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

Approval of 1998-99 Migratory Bird Season Dates & Bag Limits began with Mr. Dave Morrison reminding the Commission the staff presented tentative season dates for dove, teal, snipe, rails, gallinules and woodcock. These dates were adopted at the last meeting by the Commission and would remain the same if no changes occurred within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No changes occurred, so Mr. Morrison presented a Declaration of Emergency to adopt the season dates for this hunting season. Mr. Morrison then read the season dates. Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any comments and none were heard. The Chairman then asked Mr. Morrison to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings in Washington, D.C. have been held on early migratory bird season regulations that include dove, snipe, rail, gallinule, woodcock and teal, and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing early migratory bird season frameworks have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for migratory species that include season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the statutory responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for these migratory species within constraints established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission does hereby adopt the attached season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours for dove, teal, rails, gallinules, snipe and woodcock by Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these dates have been forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Louisiana's selections for early migratory bird seasons.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

The hunting seasons for early migratory birds during the 1998-99 hunting season shall be as follows:

MIGRATORY BIRDS OTHER THAN WATERFOWL

DOVE: Split Season, Statewide, 60 days
September 5 (Sat.)-September 13 (Sun.) 9 days
October 17 (Sat.)-November 6 (Fri.) 21 days
December 12 (Sat.)-January 10 (Sun.) 30 days
Daily bag limit 15, Possession Limit, 30

TEAL: September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
Daily bag limit 4, Possession limit 8, Blue-winged,
Green-winged and Cinnamon teal only. Federal and State
waterfowl stamps required.

RAILS: Split Season
September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) 54 days

KING AND CLAPPER: Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate,
Possession 30.

SORA AND VIRGINIA: Daily bag and possession 25 in the
aggregate.

GALLINULES: Split Season
September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) 54 days
Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 30

SNIPE: November 7 (Sat.)-February 21 (Sun.) 107 days
Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 16

WOODCOCK: December 18 (Fri)-January 31 (Sun.) 45 days
Daily bag limit 3, Possession 6

SHOOTING HOURS:

Teal, Rail, Snipe, Woodcock and Gallinule: One-half hour
before sunrise to sunset.

Dove: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset except on
September 5-6, October 17-18, and December 12-13 when shooting
hours will be 12:00 noon to sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory
species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities
to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits,
and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours
will become effective on September 1, 1998 and extend through
sunset on February 28, 1999.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mr. Hugh Bateman presented the next item, **Declaration of Emergency - Prohibition of Using Corn to Feed Wildlife**. Copies of a News Release and other articles on aflatoxin poisoning was handed to each Commissioner for their review. A lot of concern has been expressed in the farming community on the drought. Information from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the LSU Agriculture Center has shown elevated levels of aflatoxin poisoning in grain corn. Mr. Bateman then gave background information on aflatoxins and how there have been incidences in the past where wildlife has been affected. Peanuts and corn are two grains that can contain this aflatoxin. There are FDA regulations on contaminated corn that prevents it from being marketed for human consumption and livestock feed. An estimated 700,000 acres of corn was planted this year and once this problem was discovered, the agriculture people started sampling the corn fields to determine the aflatoxin levels. The Department does not have a lot of technical information that tells how much and at what contamination level this grain will affect wildlife. Mr. Bateman then stated deer are very resistant to aflatoxin, but the younger and smaller animals may have more debilitating problems. All forms of birds are particularly susceptible. With the problems occurring, the contaminated corn may be sold at lower prices by uninformed people and stored for long periods of time. Storing this corn for long periods of time could be harmful if fed to wildlife. Mr. Bateman stated one of his first contacts was with the Cooperative Wildlife Disease Research Center at the University of Georgia. After discussing this problem with a lot of different experts and his staff, and knowing the responsibility of the Wildlife Division and Department, Mr. Bateman recommended prohibiting the use of corn as a wildlife food in Louisiana for at least the remainder of this year and next year. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bateman to read the Resolution for the record. Then he asked what mechanism will be used to determine the levels of aflatoxin and that there is a threat to wildlife? Chairman Gattle stated he was told there would be a moratorium for a certain period of time and then look at the situation; however, two proposals were given which did not give a specific timeframe. Mr. Bateman stated a Declaration of Emergency only covers a 120 day period. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission would have to renew the Declaration of Emergency? Mr. Don Puckett stated, the way the Resolution reads the Commission could give the Secretary authority to take further action. Mr. Bateman then stated, acting with an abundance of caution, they would like to maintain the ban and protect wildlife until the problem is over. Chairman Gattle stated this is a very emotional issue and everyone should try to make a determination based on fact. Commissioner Babin asked if the Department of Agriculture has the capability of testing? Then he stated if there is a mechanism within another agency, it was hoped there could be a spirit of cooperation. Mr. Bateman stated the Department of Agriculture is who the Department would have to depend on for testing information. Commissioner Hanchey asked if this is the first year this problem has occurred? Mr. Bateman stated this is

the first year the Department has become concerned because of the level of the problem. His experience has shown that when an animal gets sick, they seek darkness and cover and generally no one ever sees them. Commissioner McCall asked if corn was prohibited, what alternative could be used for feed? Mr. Bateman stated wheat, soybeans, milo, and sunflower seeds are just a few. Commissioner Babin asked if aflatoxins was checked in the fields before harvesting? Chairman Gattle asked for a representative from the Department of Agriculture or the LSU Ag Center to speak on this issue.

Mr. Raymond Schexnayder, a farmer in Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge Parishes, stated the Department of Agriculture came out and discovered he has aflatoxin at a ratio of 5 ppb. The corn he harvested is being delivered to exporters and these exporters has a restriction of 20 ppb. The Department of Agriculture has 11 stations throughout the State for farmers to send their samples for testing. Mr. Schexnayder stated he has been selling corn to deer hunters either cleaned and bagged or just loose. He then commented aflatoxin will not build up if the corn is dried down to 13 percent moisture and kept in good condition. He felt the panic button was being hit too soon.

Mr. Al Ortego, La. Cooperative Extension Service, stated there are 11 testing locations throughout the State. The purposes of these stations was to prevent harvesting of the corn if their levels were too high and would also be used as the official testing for crop insurance purposes to determine if a field has zero value. The Food and Drug Administration guidelines for the use of aflatoxins corn is based on domesticated animals fed a complete diet and is different from those animals fed in the wild. Chairman Gattle asked what regulatory agency is overseeing the sale of deer corn in a bag in this State? Then he asked if the Department of Agriculture was testing for aflatoxin on a regular basis? Mr. Ortego could not answer the Chairman's questions. Commissioner Babin asked how long has it been known there was a problem with aflatoxin?

Mr. Michael Naquin stated aflatoxin has been here for years. To stop farmers from selling their good crop is ludicrous since 2/3 of this year's crop has been lost. He also felt the deer and other wildlife will suffer with the prohibition. Mr. Naquin stated there was no research nor documentation to support the prohibition. He then stated he did not feel any farmer would sell bad corn to humans, cattle farmers or for wildlife. Chairman Gattle stated he was very concerned about importing corn to north Louisiana to feed deer. It is true aflatoxin is in the soil all the time and it attacks the plants in years of stress. This year there have been much higher concentrations of the aflatoxins found in the grains. Mr. Naquin stated the wrapping of the corn, variety of corn and the handling of the corn makes a difference. Ninety percent of the loads are being accepted. Commissioner Babin asked if a farmer

sends a load of grain to an elevator and it is rejected, where does that grain end up? Mr. Naquin stated the farmers will blend it with other corn and if it meets the levels, they sell and ship it.

Mr. Donald Courville, a grain farmer for 26 years, stated this was a management problem and there is no tool to manage this problem. The problem needs to be managed by the Department of Agriculture for all corn that is sold by probing the corn sacks and testing for aflatoxin. The drought has caused less natural foods for wildlife and the corn this year will be a valuable commodity for the wildlife. This fungus is a naturally occurring toxin and needs to be managed at safe levels. Prohibiting the use of corn is not the answer to the problem. Also prohibiting the use of corn for feed will put him out of business.

Mr. Ralph Willie asked if the aflatoxin problem was in the corn or the trash? Mr. Courville stated the problem was in the immature grains, the damaged kernels and somewhat on the cob pieces. The two things fungus needs to grow is moisture and temperature and when it is dried to 12 or 13 percent moisture, it will be at a safe storage level. Mr. Courville then stated the Department needs to educate the public on this problem.

Mr. Joe Cagnolatti, National Wild Turkey Federation, stated they had a board meeting and adopted a resolution to support the Department's recommendation for a temporary ban on the use of corn for feeding wildlife. Turkeys will come to corn and the smaller the animal, the worse the problem.

Dr. Don Reed, La. Cooperative Extension Service, stated it was not only a management problem but also an educational problem. There is some bad corn, but also a lot of good corn and educating people on how to disseminate the good corn to wildlife would be the approach to take. If the corn is bought from a grain elevator, that operator will not take the chance of buying corn with high levels of aflatoxin which could pose a threat to wildlife. Commissioner McCall asked about the corn bought from Wal-Mart? Dr. Reed stated he did not know where these type stores get their corn from. Chairman Gattle stated rules are made for those that do not have a good conscience. Then he stated, in managing a resource, there are people that are going to have to suffer at some point. Chairman Gattle felt, with their being no regulatory authority over this, either the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the Department of Agriculture should monitor this activity. He expressed concern over finding aflatoxin levels of 1000, 1200 and 1500 ppb in corn.

Commissioner Kelly asked Mr. Courville what steps does he take to ensure the specialty corn he sells is within the safe limits? Mr. Courville stated he has the liability to stand behind his corn and to make sure his product is good and clean. He then explained how testing for aflatoxin has become sophisticated since the use of

a black light. The Department of Agriculture is providing free testing for the corn.

Commissioner Babin asked, if the regulation is adopted, who will regulate it and what will the penalty be for selling corn? Chairman Gattle thought it would be a Class II violation. Mr. Puckett stated it is a Class II violation, first offense is \$100 to \$350 fine, second offense, \$300 to \$550 fine. Chairman Gattle asked if the violation occurs at the point of sale or the act of feeding corn to wildlife? Mr. Puckett answered it would be the act of feeding itself. Commissioner Babin stated if the Food and Drug Administration finds salmonella in chickens, they do not ban chickens entirely. He felt there was a problem with aflatoxin, but stopping the sale of corn may not be the solution.

Mr. Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, stated the bigger issue is hunting and how to hunt. The position of the Federation is, if it can be avoided at all, you should not be putting anything into the environment that will put wildlife resources at risk. He then stated, if you are going to make an error, error on the side of caution. Mr. Lanctot stated they would support the Commission if they take the cautious approach and put the temporary ban in effect.

Mr. Raymond Schexnayder stated this regulation will put the local farmers that sell deer corn out of that business. If the corn has a high level of aflatoxin, the farmer will plow it under and the deer will probably eat it anyway.

Commissioner McCall asked Mr. Bateman if there was any data that showed any deer or turkey died this year from eating the corn? Mr. Bateman answered no. He then stated it was not the clean corn that is a problem, but the availability of the waste corn. The Southeastern Disease Study has urged using a cautionary approach in allowing this to continue. Mr. Bateman stated they will work with the Department of Agriculture to find a way to control this problem. The reason for the request was because there was no way to tell the difference between the bad corn and good corn. Commissioner McCall asked how will it be known that animals will die from this corn if there are no cases or problems right now? Mr. Bateman stated the only thing they can do is rely on the advice of the experts and the fact that this problem is out there. Commissioner McCall stated, as of right now, he does not see that there is a problem.

Mr. Jeff Devall asked what will he have to do with the corn he has planted that he plans to hunt over? He then commented the problem with the wild turkeys is timber management and not corn.

Mr. Donald Courville stated his corn was tested and the results were 4 ppb on yellow corn and 6 ppb on his white corn. He then asked to manage the corn on a wildlife level. He recommended

getting with the Department of Agriculture and setting up standards. Chairman Gattle stated management of corn would not happen "today". He then asked the Commissioners to consider the best route to go with the aflatoxin levels of 1000 ppb.

Mr. Glen Redd stated there is no data to prove something is happening or that is going to happen. He then commented once an activity is shut down, it is hard to open it up again. He asked the Commission to think before taking any action, gather more data and do more testing.

Mr. Mike Rhodes stated he did not see why good, clean, bagged corn could not be bought and sold and outlaw the barreled corn. Because of the drought, Mr. Rhodes felt the fall will be rough for the animals in the woods. Chairman Gattle stated, if an Agent goes into the woods and sees corn on the ground, how will he know if it came from a bag or from the field. He then stated the issue was to either ban it completely for 120 days or to allow it with a strong recommendation to use properly tested corn. Mr. Rhodes stated he did not know if it can be managed.

Commissioner Babin asked if the moratorium has to be for 120 days, can it be for 30 days, and what options does the Commission have besides yes or no? Mr. Puckett stated the Declaration of Emergency can be effective for any period of time up to 120 days. Commissioner Babin stated a 30 day ban would give the Commission more time to gather information and it would not hurt the farmers as much as a 120 day ban. Chairman Gattle asked if this item could be deferred until the next meeting? Mr. Puckett stated the Commission could defer this item and take it up again at the next meeting as a Declaration of Emergency. Commissioner Babin asked if there are any options in place to study this problem and gather more information? Mr. Puckett stated if deferred today, it could be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Chairman Gattle asked if there was a motion to adopt the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency. No motion was made. Mr. Puckett recommended announcing the Commission's intent to revisit this issue. Commissioner Babin made a motion to place this item on the September agenda with the Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries and Agriculture providing more information in hopes of protecting wildlife. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

A Notice of Intent on the 1999 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations was presented by Mr. Mike Olinde. He began his slide presentation stating the State is divided into three turkey hunting areas. The recommended hunting season dates for Area A is March 27 through April 25 (30 days) except for Kisatchie National Forest which will have season dates of March 27 through April 18. Area B dates are April 3 through April 18 (16 days) and Area C will be March 27 through April 4 (9 days). A significant change in Area A was opening the season one week later and reducing the number of days by seven. The number of days for that portion of Kisatchie

National Forest within Area A was reduced by 14 days. Area B is recommended to open one week earlier and Area C is recommended to open one week later. Twenty-four wildlife management areas will have seasons in 1999 which includes Bayou Macon this year. Mr. Olinde explained the reasons for the structure changes with the hope of having one opening date in the State. He then stated they were informed by landowners of fairly large turkey declines but could not confirm these reports. Other possible contributors to the turkey decline was timber activities, poor reproduction, diseases and reduced wildlife habitat. From the Office of Forestry, statistics from 1991 showed over 43 percent of the pine lands were now planted pine and this represents an increase of 125 percent over what it was in 1984. A slide was shown on the data from volunteer check stations in the Florida Parishes. Also shown was a slide on Mississippi's turkey harvest. A research study was conducted in the Florida parishes and one of the things that concerns the staff is the adult harvest rate. The staff hopes to increase the adult segment, buffer the effect of annual production and possibly have one opening date for the turkeys. The results of a mail survey conducted this past year was explained by Mr. Olinde. Hearing no questions, Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Olinde to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

Mr. Donald Courville asked Mr. Olinde what contributed to the decline in turkey populations, was it timber practicing and harvesting? Mr. Olinde stated, on a large scale, the decrease was mainly caused by a decline in habitat quality and disease to some extent.

After hearing no further discussion, the motion was accepted with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 1999 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered all available biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby adopted as a Notice of Intent by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its August meeting does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of wild turkeys.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly

placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaize structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La. 126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Morganza, on the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlange to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B
April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C

March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaize structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements	Lottery Dates**
Bayou Macon	April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Bens Creek†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Big Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Bodcau	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Boeuf	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Camp Beauregard	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31
Fort Polk	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Georgia-Pacific	April 3-April 11	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Grassy Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Jackson-Bienville	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Little River	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18	Self-clearing	April 10-11 April 17-18
Pearl River	March 27-April 11	Self-clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None

Red River	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Sabine	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4
Sandy Hollow†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Sherburne	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31
Sicily Island	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11
Three Rivers	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11

*Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are CLOSED. For seasons on smaller lands managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contact the local district office.

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1999.

†No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

Kisatchie National Forest Turkey Hunting Schedule: Caney Ranger District, April 3-18; Winn Ranger District closed except Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, March 27-April 18; all other Kisatchie National Forest Districts, March 27-April 18.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondences to other agencies of government.

Additionally, interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until October 23, 1998 to Hugh A. Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Reconvening from a break, Major Keith LaCaze stated he provided a copy of the **Monthly Law Enforcement Report** and Aviation Report for July. The report included, as requested, the town where the region offices are located and the list of parishes in that region. The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of July was 1,825 with the primary violations being in the area of boating. The aviation report showed the 210 plane with zero hours, this was because the pilot transferred to another agency.

Major LaCaze stated he attended the Mississippi Flyway Council Meeting and they reviewed the waterfowl-related citations issued in the Flyway. The biggest violations was use or possession of lead shot, illegal shooting hours and hunting without required stamps. Of the 3,836 citations issued in the Flyway, 686 or 17.8 percent were issued in Louisiana. Commissioner Babin asked if Louisiana has a lot more hunters than the other states in the Flyway? Major LaCaze stated there is a lot more hunter participation in Louisiana. Chairman Gattle asked if agents issue warnings? Major LaCaze stated they are in the process of creating a warning citation and will start issuing written warnings this year. Secretary Jenkins stated the warnings equal to about 50 percent of the total tickets for the Flyway and if you include the warning tickets, the total percent for Louisiana would drop to about 11 percent.

Mr. Don Lee presented the next agenda item, **Rule - Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir**. A Notice of Intent was passed in April to prohibit netting in this 2,500 acre reservoir located in Red River Parish. The reservoir is included in the Quality Lake Management System. The local Lake Commission requested the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopt a rule to prohibit netting. Since there is no significant commercial fishery in the reservoir, and there was no response to public comments on the proposed rule, Mr. Lee asked the Commission to adopt the rule prohibiting netting. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Rule. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Rule is made a part of the record.)

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts a rule prohibiting commercial netting in the John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§185. Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the possession and/or use of commercial nets, including, but not limited to, gill nets, trammel nets, flagg nets, hoop nets, wire nets and fish seines in John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir located in Red River Parish.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: (August 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency on the 1998 Fall Shrimp Season was given by Mr. Mark Schexnayder. Based on biological samples, the white shrimp in all inshore waters will average 100 count or larger by mid-August. With this information and from staff recommendations, the Division suggested opening the fall shrimp season statewide at sunrise, August 17, 1998 and to close at sunset, December 21, 1998 with one exception. This exception is leaving the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds open until March 31, 1999. Also, Mr. Schexnayder requested the Commission grant the Secretary authority to change the closing date if data indicates or an enforcement problem exists. Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. Schexnayder to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner McCall. Chairman Gattle asked if Zones 1, 2 and 3 will open at the same time and close at the same time except for that portion in Zone 1? Commissioner Babin stated the waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds are still open and is basically open waters for the State. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

- WHEREAS,** R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone; and
- WHEREAS,** R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available; and
- WHEREAS,** R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count; and
- WHEREAS,** historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in all inshore shrimp zones will average 100 count minimum size or larger by mid-August; now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open statewide at official sunrise August 17, 1998.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the Mississippi State line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, and

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, and

Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line,

all to open at official sunrise August 17, 1998.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m. March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mr. Ron Dugas handled the **Declaration of Emergency for the 1998-99 Oyster Season, Public Grounds**. The season to be set is on the public grounds, should not be confused with the leased areas, within the timeframe prescribed by law. There are approximately 2 million acres of public oyster grounds. Mr. Dugas then recommended opening an area east of the Mississippi River, the sacking area only of Lake Machias and Lake Fortuna, Bay Junop and an area in the Vermilion Bay-Atchafalaya Complex on September 9. The Sister Lake area in Terrebonne Parish has a good supply and it was recommended to open for a 12 day period from October 5 through October 16, 1998. The Calcasieu tonging area is recommended to open October 16, 1998 and run through April 30, 1999. Commissioner Babin asked what area is Sister Lake alternated with? Mr. Ron Dugas stated

Sister Lake is alternated with Bay Junop. Chairman Gattle asked how many acres are in the public grounds? Mr. Dugas stated there is approximately 2 million acres. Then the Chairman asked how many acres of leased grounds are there? Mr. Dugas answered 400,000 acres. Then he stated approximately 80,000 sacks were harvested from the Calcasieu area which is almost double that taken from the previous season. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it was approved with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

1998/99 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 1998
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be opened on the Wednesday following Labor Day which in 1998 is September 9, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Oyster Seed Reservation" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, Act #46 of the 1992 Legislative Session changed R.S. 56:433B to mandate a sacking area only on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Bay Gardene, Hackberry Bay, and Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservations not currently under lease will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from one-half hour before sunrise October 5, 1998 to one-half hour after sunset October 16, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary will also have the authority to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the season for Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1998 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

1. The Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease, Bay Junop, Bay Gardene Oyster and Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservations will open one-half hour before sunrise September 9, 1998.

2. The Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from October 5 to October 16, 1998.

3. A designated sacking only area east of the Mississippi River will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998. The sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

4. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads.

5. The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource subsides.

6. The Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1998 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1999.

7. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Rule on the Dealer Receipt Form began with Mr. Joey Shepard stating a Notice of Intent was approved in April. There were no written comments received on the Notice of Intent. Mr. Shepard then informed the Commission of one addition since the Notice of Intent and that was adding "8. Duration of trip". Commissioner Babin asked what is the penalty for false information on the documents and where does the burden lie? Mr. Don Puckett stated the burden will be with the Department to demonstrate that someone intentionally falsified. Lt. Jeff Mayne stated failure to report commercial information is a Class III violation. The fine for filing false documents is a felony, \$1,000 to \$3,000. Chairman Gattle asked if a motion was needed to ratify the rule? Commissioner Kelly made such a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Rule is made a part of the record.)

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.201) implementing dealer receipt forms, and repeal a Rule (LAC 76:VII.203) implementing the commercial fisherman's sales report form. Authority for adoption of the Rule is included in R.S. 56:303.7(B), 56:306.4(E) and 56:345.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 2. General Provisions

§201. Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card; Dealer Receipt Form-Design and Use

A. The "Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card" shall be provided by the Department in lieu of the commercial fisherman's license. The card will be embossed with the following information:

1. Commercial fisherman's name;
2. Commercial license number;
3. Commercial fisherman's social security number;
4. Expiration date;
5. Residency status.

B. The card shall be presented by the commercial fisherman to the dealer at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

C. The dealer receipt form shall be a three-part numbered form provided by the Department. The dealer receipt form shall be completed when fish are purchased or received from commercial fishermen. The receipt form shall represent the actual transaction between the commercial fisherman and the dealer. The dealer shall fill out the receipt form in its entirety containing all of the information required in §201.D and E with the exception of the commercial fisherman's signature that shall be recorded by the fisherman. The "Dealer's Copy" of the receipt shall be maintained on file at the dealer's place of business or where the fish are received. The dealer shall maintain the receipts for a period of 3 years. The "Department Copy" portion of the dealer receipt form shall be returned to the Department by the dealer by the tenth of each month to include purchases made during the previous month. Along with the receipts for each month, the dealer shall submit a "Monthly Submission Sheet" provided by the Department that certifies that the transactions submitted represent all of the transactions by that dealer from commercial fishermen for that particular month. The "Monthly Submission Sheet" shall fulfill the reporting requirements in R.S. 56:345. The dealer shall mail completed receipt forms to a pre-determined address designated by the Department. Dealers are responsible for obtaining dealer receipt forms from the Department by calling a pre-determined phone number.

D. The commercial fisherman is responsible for providing the following information to the dealer at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

1. Commercial fisherman's name;
2. Commercial fisherman's license number;
3. Information on commercial gear used;
4. Information on vessel used;
5. Information on location fished;
6. Permit numbers for species requiring a permit to harvest;
7. Commercial fisherman's signature;
8. Duration of trip.

E. The dealer is responsible for recording on the dealer receipt form that information provided by the commercial fisherman in §201.D and is responsible for the following information at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

1. Dealer's name;
2. Dealer's license number;
3. Commercial fisherman's name;
4. Commercial fisherman's license number;
5. Species purchased;
6. Quantity and units of each species purchased;
7. Size and condition of each species purchased;
8. Transaction date;
9. Unit price of each species purchased;
10. Dealer's signature;
11. Permit numbers for species requiring a permit to harvest;
12. Commercial fisherman's signature.

F. Dealers may designate an agent to sign the dealer receipt form for them however, in all cases the dealer shall remain responsible for the actions of their agent.

G. All records and receipt forms shall be available and produced upon demand to any duly authorized agent of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division or department auditor.

H. Effective date of §201.A and B is upon publication in the Louisiana Register. Effective date for §201.C-G will be January 1, 1999.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:303.7(B), 56:306.4(E) and 56:345.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 18:81 (January 1992), repromulgated LR 18:198 (February 1992), amended LR 20:323 (March 1994), amended by the Office of Fisheries, LR 21:477 (May 1995), LR 22:373 (May 1996), amended by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (August 1998).

§203. Commercial Fisherman's Sales Report Form

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:345(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 18:82 (January 1992), repromulgated LR 18:198 (February 1992), amended LR 20:323 (March 1994), amended by the Office of Fisheries, LR 21:477 (May 1995), LR 22:373 (May 1996), repealed by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (August 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mr. Harry Blanchet presented the **Notice of Intent - Harvest Regulations on Billfishes**. This action will establish rules for billfish which are large, offshore, saltwater fish with very long noses. These include swordfish, sailfish and marlins. The vast majority of the harvest comes from Federal waters offshore. These regulations will be compatible with those regulations offshore to enhance enforcement. Mr. Blanchet felt this Department gets information on regulations out to the public better than the Federal Government. He then went over several portions of the Notice of Intent, such as the minimum size limits, permits for the commercial harvest of swordfish, recreational permits for those who fish tournaments that harvest billfishes, creel limits for swordfish and seasonal closures. Chairman Gattle asked if there were regulations for permits now for the taking of these fish? Mr. Blanchet stated no, but there is a federal requirement for the permits to be there. Then Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Blanchet to explain the permits. He also asked what was the contemplated cost for the permits and what is the cost of the federal permit now? Mr. Blanchet read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

BILLFISH HARVEST RULES

WHEREAS, the billfish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are primarily managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has adopted size limits and permit regulations for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, adoption of compatible regulations for Louisiana state waters would enhance effectiveness and enforceability of the regulations already in place for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set possession limits, quotas, places, seasons, times, size limits and daily take limits based upon biological and technical data limits for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to provide for size limits, bag limits, permit regulations, and a framework for seasonal closures for billfishes in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate a rule (LAC 76:VII.355) providing for regulations on the harvest of billfishes, including marlins, sailfish and swordfish. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§355. Harvest Regulations - Billfishes

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of billfishes including marlins, sailfish and swordfish within and without Louisiana's territorial waters. For purposes of this Section, the following words and phrases have the meaning ascribed to them in this subsection, unless the context clearly shows a different meaning:

Carcass Length: curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.

Dressed Weight: the weight of the carcass after it has been gutted, headed, and finned.

Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL): straight-line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.

Trip: a fishing trip, regardless of the number of days duration, that begins with departure from a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp and that terminates with return to a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp.

B. Minimum Size Limits: No person shall possess any fish smaller than the minimum size limit.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>
1. Blue Marlin	96 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
2. White Marlin	66 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
3. Sailfish	57 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
4. Swordfish	29 inches carcass length or 33 pounds dressed weight

C. Recreational Creel Limit: Recreational fishing vessels shall not possess more than five swordfish per vessel per trip. Swordfish taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered, or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged or bartered.

D. Gamefish: Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 56 §327(A)(1)(b)(i) designates sailfish (Istiophorus platypterus), blue marlin (Makaira nigricans), black marlin (Makaira indica), striped marlin (Tetrapturus audax), hatchet marlin (Tetrapturus spp.), and white marlin (Tetrapturus albidus) as saltwater gamefish. This rule does not affect the designation of gamefish

status, which is retained by the legislature (R.S. 56:6(25)(a)). Vessels engaged in commercial fishing shall not possess any of these species.

E. Permits

1. Recreational: Tournament operators: A person conducting a tournament involving scorekeeping or awards for Atlantic billfish (whether or not retained), must register with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

2. Commercial - Swordfish:

a. The owner of a vessel of the United States or a vessel that fishes for or possesses swordfish, or takes swordfish as incidental catch, regardless of whether retained, must possess a valid commercial permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish. This permit must be aboard the vessel and available for inspection by agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division. The captain of the vessel is also responsible to ensure the validity and possession of the permit aboard the vessel before retaining, possessing, selling or attempting to sell swordfish.

b. A Wholesale/Retail dealer who first receives swordfish must have been issued a valid dealer permit under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish. This dealer permit must be in possession of the Wholesale/Retail dealer and available for inspection by agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division.

F. All persons fishing for swordfish, or persons receiving any swordfish from fishermen, who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any swordfish, or possess any swordfish in excess of a recreational creel limit.

G. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessels on state or federal waters.

H. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any swordfish in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial permit was issued.

I. Seasonal Closures. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close any recreational or commercial fishery for marlins or swordfish, within and without Louisiana's territorial waters, when the Secretary is

notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that the seasonal quota for that species and fishery has been met. The closure order shall close the fishery until the date projected for the re-opening of that fishery in the adjacent Federal waters. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to modify any such closure order to maintain consistency with re-opening dates in the adjacent Federal waters, should the Federal closure dates be modified.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to October 1, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation was the next item and was handled by Ms. Marianne Burke. The date for National Hunting and Fishing Day is set for September 26, 1998. Louisiana has four sites and include Baton Rouge, Minden, Monroe and Natchitoches. This day is the largest public relations event for this Department. Commissioner Babin stated this is a great program and the Department does a good job. Chairman Gattle concurred and encouraged as many people as possible to participate in this event. Ms. Burke read the Therefore portion of the Proclamation. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Proclamation and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Proclamation is made a part of the record.)

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Louisianians are blessed with an abundance and diversity of game, fish and seafood that hunters, fishers and commercial industries have long appreciated and recognized the need to conserve, and

WHEREAS, revenues raised by sportsmen and commercial industries have successfully returned some animal species that faced extinction or were threatened or endangered by environmental conditions often imposed by people to healthy populations; and

WHEREAS, hunters and anglers have a long history of contributing to conservation efforts statewide and nationwide, contributing more than \$12 billion to conservation programs during the past half a century through license fees and self-imposed excise taxes, and

WHEREAS, a recent survey by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that 56 percent of all Louisianians participate in some type of fish or wildlife-related activity, and

WHEREAS, latest figures indicate that the total economic impact of wildlife-related activities, including hunting and non-consumptive usage, in Louisiana is more than \$1 billion and that Louisianians directly spend \$656 million on hunting and other wildlife-associated recreation, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana residents have spent an \$29.4 million on fishing and hunting licenses during the last three years, and

WHEREAS, the state's warm Gulf waters and fertile estuarine systems are home to more than 100 commercially valuable seafood species, making Louisiana's marine fisheries one of the most important in the nation with more than 1.4 billion pounds landed annually for a dockside value of approximately \$306 million, with more than 150,000 people directly and indirectly employed in harvesting, processing, wholesaling, and distribution of Louisiana seafood;

THEREFORE I, Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, State of Louisiana, hereby proclaim Saturday, September 26, 1998 as the

14th ANNUAL
LOUISIANA NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

throughout the state of Louisiana in recognition of the economic contributions of the hunting and fishing industry and in acknowledgment of the sport enjoyed by so many of our citizens.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Division Reports**. Secretary Jenkins stated he provided each Commissioner with a newspaper article on extending state waters out to 9 miles. This has been an on-going discussion with the Department, the Governor's Office and Congress for several weeks. Secretary Jenkins stated this Department could not take on Coast Guard duty with no new monies and no time. A rough estimate to take on this additional duty was several million dollars. The Governor agreed with Secretary Jenkins. He concluded stating it was voted down.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **December 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, December 3, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Leonard Hensgens, a member of the U.S. Waterfowl Habitat Program and in Louisiana known as Quackback, stated they took on a project with the North American Waterfowl Agreement. They wanted to flood 1 million acres of harvested rice fields for resting and breeding grounds. This was accomplished this past year. Mr. Hensgens then stated his Committee requested the no creeping law be removed in order to reduce the numbers of snow and blue geese.

Commissioner Babin made a motion to go into Executive Session on **Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC**. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Reconvening from Executive Session with no action taken and there being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. This motion passed with no opposition.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, August 6, 1998
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Tom Gattle (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Daniel Babin	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Glynn Carver	<u>—</u>	<u>✓</u>
Bill Busbice	<u>—</u>	<u>✓</u>
Jerald Hanchey	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Norman McCall	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 5 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
August 6, 1998
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 1998
3. Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose & Coot Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits - Robert Helm
4. Approval of 1998-99 Migratory Bird Season Dates & Bag Limits - Dave Morrison
5. Declaration of Emergency - Prohibition of Using Corn to Feed Wildlife - Hugh Bateman
6. Notice of Intent - 1999 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations - Mike Olinde
7. Rule - Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir - ~~Bennie Fontenot~~ *Don Lee*
8. Declaration of Emergency - 1998 Fall Shrimp Season - Mark Schexnayder
9. Declaration of Emergency - 1998-99 Oyster Season, Public Grounds - Ron Dugas
10. Rule - Dealer Receipt Form - Joey Shepard
11. Notice of Intent - Harvest Regulations on Billfishes - Harry Blanchet
12. National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation - Marianne Burke
13. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July - Winton Vidrine
14. Division Reports
15. Set December 1998 Meeting Date
16. Public Comments
17. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
18. Adjournment

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15. Set December 1998 Meeting Date
16. Public Comments
17. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
18. Adjournment

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington D. C., and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

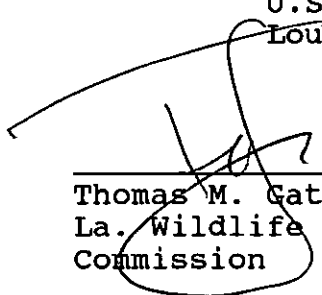
WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 1998-99 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James M. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

**TENTATIVE SEASONS RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR DUCKS, COOTS AND GEESE**

DUCKS AND COOTS:

West Zone: (60 days) Nov. 7 (Sat.) - Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

East Zone: (60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.) - Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

Catahoula Lake Zone:

(60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.) - Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

Youth Waterfowl Day - December 5 in West Zone, January 23 in East Zone

Daily Bag Limits - The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback and 2 redhead. Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit - The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

GEESE:

LIGHT GEESE (SNOW AND BLUE)

STATEWIDE SEASON:

Nov. 7 (Sat.) - February 21 (Sun.) (107 days)

Daily bag limit (snow and blue): **20**
Possession limit (snow and blue): **None**

WHITE-FRONTED (SPECKLE BELLIES):

Nov. 7 (Sat.) - Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 27 (Sun.) (47 days)

Daily Bag limit (speckle bellies) **2**
Possession limit (speckle bellies) **4**

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

CANADA GEESE: CLOSED IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW

Jan. 19 (Tues) - Jan. 27 (Wed)

(9 days)

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The Canada Goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows:

Beginning at the Texas State Line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with La. Hwy. 82, then south along La. Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas State Line, then north to the point of beginning at La. Hwy. 82.

A special permit shall be required to participate in the **Canada Goose Season**. A permit is required of everyone, regardless of age, and a non-refundable \$5.00 administrative fee will be charged. This permit may be obtained from any District Office.

Return of harvest information requested on permit is mandatory. Failure to submit this information to the Department by February 15, 1999 will result in the hunter not being allowed to participate in the **Canada Goose Season** the following year.

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington D. C., and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 1998-99 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

**TENTATIVE SEASONS RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR DUCKS, COOTS AND GEESE**

DUCKS AND COOTS:

West Zone: (60 days) Nov. 7 (Sat.) - Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

East Zone: (60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.) - Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

Catahoula Lake Zone:

(60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.) - Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

Youth Waterfowl Day - December 5 in West Zone, January 23 in East Zone

Daily Bag Limits - The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback and 2 redhead. Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit - The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

GEESE:

LIGHT GEESE (SNOW AND BLUE)

STATEWIDE SEASON:

Nov. 7 (Sat.) - February 21 (Sun.) (107 days)

Daily bag limit (snow and blue): 20
Possession limit (snow and blue): None

WHITE-FRONTED (SPECKLE BELLIES):

Nov. 7 (Sat.) - Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.) - Jan. 27 (Sun.) (47 days)

Daily Bag limit (speckle bellies) 2
Possession limit (speckle bellies) 4

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

CANADA GEESE: CLOSED IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW

Jan. 19 (Tues) - Jan. 27 (Wed)

(9 days)

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The Canada Goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows:

Beginning at the Texas State Line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with La. Hwy. 82, then south along La. Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas State Line, then north to the point of beginning at La. Hwy. 82.

A special permit shall be required to participate in the **Canada Goose Season**. A permit is required of everyone, regardless of age, and a non-refundable \$5.00 administrative fee will be charged. This permit may be obtained from any District Office.

Return of harvest information requested on permit is mandatory. Failure to submit this information to the Department by February 15, 1999 will result in the hunter not being allowed to participate in the **Canada Goose Season** the following year.

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Revised 8/5/98
Per D. Morrison

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington D.C., and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 1998-99 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

**TENTATIVE SEASONS RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR DUCKS, COOTS AND GEESE**

DUCKS AND COOTS:

West Zone: (60 days) Nov. 7 (Sat.)- Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

East Zone: (60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.)- Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

Catahoula Lake Zone:
(60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.)- Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

Youth Waterfowl Day- December 5 in West Zone, January 23 in east zone

Daily Bag Limits

The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, **pintail**, 1 canvasback, **scaup** and 2 redhead. Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit - The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

GEESE:

LIGHT GEESE (SNOW AND BLUE)

STATEWIDE SEASON:

Nov. 7 (Sat.)-February 21 (Sun.) **107 days**

Daily bag limit (snow and blue): 10

Possession limit (snow and blue): 30

WHITE-FRONTED (SPECKLE BELLIES):

Nov. 7 (Sat.)- Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 27 (Sun.) (47 days)

Daily Bag limit (speckle bellies) 2
Possession limit (speckle bellies) 4

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

CANADA GEESE: CLOSED IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW

Jan. 19 (Tues)-Jan. 27 (Wed) 9 days

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The Canada Goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows:

Beginning at the Texas State Line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with La. Hwy. 82, then south along La. Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas State Line, then north to the point of beginning at La. Hwy. 82.

A special permit shall be required to participate in the **Canada Goose Season**. A permit is required of everyone, regardless of age, and a non-refundable \$5.00 administrative fee will be charged. This permit may be obtained from any District Office.

Return of harvest information requested on permit is mandatory. Failure to submit this information to the Department by February 15, 1999 will result in the hunter not being allowed to participate in the **Canada Goose Season** the following year.

Shooting Hours: one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Replaced by Butch
7/29/98

**TENTATIVE SEASONS RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR DUCKS, COOTS AND GEESE**

DUCKS AND COOTS:

West Zone: (60 days) Nov. 7 (Sat.)- Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)
(45 days) Nov 14 Sat- Nov 29 (Sun) Dec 19 (Sat)-Jan 16 (Sat) (16 days) (29 days)

East Zone: (60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.)- Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)
(45 days) Nov 21 Sat- Nov 29 (Sun) Dec 12 (Sat)-Jan 16 (Sat) (7 days) (26 days)

Catahoula Lake Zone:

(60 days) Nov. 14 (Sat.)- Dec. 6 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 17 (Sun.) (37 days)

Youth Waterfowl Day- December 5 in West Zone, January 23 in east zone

Daily Bag Limits

The daily bag limit on ducks is **6** and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than **2 of which may be females**), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, **3 pintail**, 1 canvasback and 2 redhead. Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit - The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

GEESE:

LIGHT GEESE (SNOW AND BLUE)

STATEWIDE SEASON:

Nov. 7 (Sat.)-February 21 (Sun.) **107 days**

Daily bag limit (snow and blue): **10**

Possession limit (snow and blue): 30

WHITE-FRONTED (SPECKLE BELLIES):

Nov. 7 (Sat.)- Nov. 29 (Sun.) (23 days)
Dec. 12 (Sat.)- Jan. 27 (Sun.) (47 days)

Daily Bag limit (speckle bellies) 2
Possession limit (speckle bellies) 4

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

CANADA GEESE: CLOSED IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW

Jan. 19 (Tues)-Jan. 27 (Wed) 9 days

During the Canada Goose Season (Jan. 19-Jan. 27) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The Canada Goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows:

Beginning at the Texas State Line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with La. Hwy. 82, then south along La. Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas State Line, then north to the point of beginning at La. Hwy. 82.

A special permit shall be required to participate in the **Canada Goose Season**. A permit is required of everyone, regardless of age, and a non-refundable \$5.00 administrative fee will be charged. This permit may be obtained from any District Office.

Return of harvest information requested on permit is mandatory. Failure to submit this information to the Department by February 15, 1999 will result in the hunter not being allowed to participate in the **Canada Goose Season** the following year.

Shooting Hours: one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Hawkins, Susan

From: Morrison, Dave
Sent: Monday, July 27, 1998 9:54 AM
To: Vidrine, Winton
Cc: Bateman, Hugh; Hawkins, Susan; Olinde, Mike; Helm, Robert

Winton,

Next week the Wildlife Division will recommend tentative season dates for ducks, coots and geese. With that in mind, we are planning to send these tentative dates to the Commission some time this week to allow them an opportunity to review the dates prior to the meeting. It should be understood that these dates are predicated on a framework similar to last year (60 days/6 ducks). Should this change then we will provide everyone with updated recommendations. This copy of our recommendations is being provide for your review. Should you have any questions let me know.

Dave Morrison



98duckre.wpd

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings in Washington, D.C. have been held on early migratory bird season regulations that include dove, snipe, rail, gallinule, woodcock and teal, and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

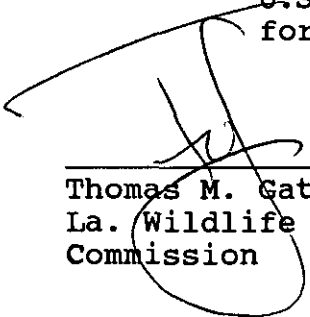
WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing early migratory bird season frameworks have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for migratory species that include season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours, and

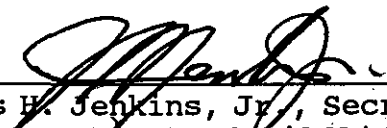
WHEREAS, it is the statutory responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for these migratory species within constraints established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission does hereby adopt the attached season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours for dove, teal, rails, gallinules, snipe and woodcock by Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these dates have been forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Louisiana's selections for early migratory bird seasons.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

The hunting seasons for early migratory birds during the 1998-99 hunting season shall be as follows:

MIGRATORY BIRDS OTHER THAN WATERFOWL

- DOVE:** Split Season, Statewide, 60 days
- | | |
|--|---------|
| September 5 (Sat.)-September 13 (Sun.) | 9 days |
| October 17 (Sat.)-November 6 (Fri.) | 21 days |
| December 12 (Sat.)-January 10 (Sun.) | 30 days |
- Daily bag limit 15, Possession Limit, 30
- TEAL:** September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
- Daily bag limit 4, Possession limit 8, Blue-winged, Green-winged and Cinnamon teal only. Federal and State waterfowl stamps required.
- RAILS:** Split Season
- | | |
|---|---------|
| September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) | 16 days |
| November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) | 54 days |
- KING AND CLAPPER:** Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, Possession 30.
- SORA AND VIRGINIA:** Daily bag and possession 25 in the aggregate.

GALLINULES: Split Season

September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days

November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) 54 days

Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 30

SNIPE: November 7 (Sat.)-February 21 (Sun.) 107 days

Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 16

WOODCOCK: December 18 (Fri)-January 31 (Sun.) 45 days

Daily bag limit 3, Possession 6

SHOOTING HOURS:

Teal, Rail, Snipe, Woodcock and Gallinule: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Dove: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset except on September 5-6, October 17-18, and December 12-13 when shooting hours will be 12:00 noon to sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours will become effective on September 1, 1998 and extend through sunset on February 28, 1999.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, public hearings in Washington, D.C. have been held on early migratory bird season regulations that include dove, snipe, rail, gallinule, woodcock and teal, and

WHEREAS, the results of this meeting have been discussed with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing early migratory bird season frameworks have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for migratory species that include season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the statutory responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for these migratory species within constraints established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission does hereby adopt the attached season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours for dove, teal, rails, gallinules, snipe and woodcock by Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these dates have been forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Louisiana's selections for early migratory bird seasons.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

The hunting seasons for early migratory birds during the 1998-99 hunting season shall be as follows:

MIGRATORY BIRDS OTHER THAN WATERFOWL

- DOVE:** Split Season, Statewide, 60 days
- | | |
|--|---------|
| September 5 (Sat.)-September 13 (Sun.) | 9 days |
| October 17 (Sat.)-November 6 (Fri.) | 21 days |
| December 12 (Sat.)-January 10 (Sun.) | 30 days |
- Daily bag limit 15, Possession Limit, 30
- TEAL:** September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days
- Daily bag limit 4, Possession limit 8, Blue-winged, Green-winged and Cinnamon teal only. Federal and State waterfowl stamps required.
- RAILS:** Split Season
- | | |
|---|---------|
| September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) | 16 days |
| November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) | 54 days |
- KING AND CLAPPER:** Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, Possession 30.
- SORA AND VIRGINIA:** Daily bag and possession 25 in the aggregate.

GALLINULES: Split Season

September 12 (Sat.)-September 27 (Sun.) 16 days

November 7 (Sat.)-December 30 (Wed.) 54 days

Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 30

SNIPE: November 7 (Sat.)-February 21 (Sun.) 107 days

Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 16

WOODCOCK: December 18 (Fri)-January 31 (Sun.) 45 days

Daily bag limit 3, Possession 6

SHOOTING HOURS:

Teal, Rail, Snipe, Woodcock and Gallinule: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Dove: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset except on September 5-6, October 17-18, and December 12-13 when shooting hours will be 12:00 noon to sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours will become effective on September 1, 1998 and extend through sunset on February 28, 1999.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERY
August 6, 1998

No
Action
taken!
(original)

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife & Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on August 6, 1998.

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is mandated to protect, manage and conserve resources of the state, and
- WHEREAS,** corn is the predominant grain used throughout the state for feeding wildlife, and
- WHEREAS,** severe drought conditions this summer have resulted in Louisiana's corn crop exhibiting unusually high levels of contamination from aflatoxins with up to 1500 parts per billion (ppb), and
- WHEREAS,** past experience has shown that under these conditions more contaminated grain is offered for sale as wildlife feed since it cannot meet the aflatoxin standards established for grain intended for domestic animal or human consumption, and
- WHEREAS,** research has shown that feed contaminated with aflatoxins can have adverse effects on all wildlife, especially birds, and
- WHEREAS,** deer fed contaminated grain may experience reduced food intake and associated weight loss and liver disfunction at aflatoxin levels of 800 ppb, and
- WHEREAS,** supplemental feeding activity for deer and other wildlife has begun and will peak through the next several months, and
- WHEREAS,** this time of year coincides with the peak of fawn nursing and growth and deer are also experiencing drought related stress, and
- WHEREAS,** wild turkeys, quail, dove and a variety of song birds also utilize supplemental feeding stations supplied with corn, and
- WHEREAS,** research has also indicated that juvenile turkeys exhibit evidence of liver damage and decreased immune functions resulting in less resistance to other disease such as avian pox when fed contaminated grains containing aflatoxins at levels of 100 to 400 ppb, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has expended tremendous amounts of time and effort restoring wild turkeys throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, drought conditions experienced throughout the state have reduced natural food availability in the form of forage and mast, and

WHEREAS, under these conditions wildlife respond more readily to supplemental feeding programs, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease group has recommended that grains contaminated with aflatoxins in excess of levels allowable in animal feeds (100 ppb) should not be used in supplemental wildlife feeding programs, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby prohibit the use of corn for supplemental feeding of wildlife, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this ban will remain in effect until such time that the Secretary determines the level of aflatoxins no longer pose a threat to wildlife.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7 and R.S. 56:6, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

The supplemental feeding of corn to wildlife is prohibited until such time that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries determines that contamination levels of aflatoxins no longer pose a threat to Louisiana's wildlife populations.

Severe drought conditions this summer have resulted in Louisiana's corn crop exhibiting unusually high levels of contamination from aflatoxins. In some instances, levels have reached 1500 parts per billion (USDA guidelines for human consumption and animal feed range from 20 to 100 ppb). Under these conditions more contaminated grain may be offered for sale as wildlife feed because the grain cannot meet the aflatoxin standards established for grain intended for domestic animal or human consumption. Since corn is the predominant grain used throughout the state for feeding wildlife and research has shown that feeds contaminated with aflatoxins can have adverse effects on all wildlife, especially birds, the Commission has determined that a prohibition of feeding corn is in the best interest of wildlife in Louisiana. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because supplemental feeding activity for deer and other wildlife has begun

and will peak through the next several months. Steps must be taken now to ensure that the public is aware of this problem and every effort has been made to ensure that wildlife species are not adversely impacted as a result of aflatoxin poisoning.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also grants the Secretary of the Department the authority to rescind and/or extend this Declaration of Emergency if conditions warrant.

This Declaration of Emergency will become effective August 6, 1998 and will extend for a minimum of 120 days or until such time that contamination levels have been reduced.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, LA August 6, 1998.

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is constitutionally mandated to protect, manage and conserve the wildlife resources of the state, and
- WHEREAS,** corn is the predominant grain used throughout the state for feeding wildlife, and
- WHEREAS,** severe drought conditions this summer have resulted in Louisiana's corn crop exhibiting unusually high levels of contamination from aflatoxins with up to 1500 parts per billion (ppb), and
- WHEREAS,** past experience has shown that under these conditions more contaminated grain is offered for sale as wildlife feed since it cannot meet the aflatoxin standards established for grain intended for domestic animal or human consumption, and
- WHEREAS,** research has shown that feed contaminated with aflatoxins can have adverse effects on all wildlife, especially birds, and
- WHEREAS,** deer fed contaminated grain may experience reduced food intake and associated weight loss and liver disfunction at aflatoxin levels of 800 ppb, and
- WHEREAS,** supplemental feeding activity for deer and other wildlife has begun and will peak through the next several months, and
- WHEREAS,** this time of year coincides with the peak of fawn nursing and growth and deer are also experiencing drought related stress, and
- WHEREAS,** wild turkeys, quail, dove and a variety of song birds also utilize supplemental feeding stations supplied with corn, and
- WHEREAS,** research has also indicated that juvenile turkeys exhibit evidence of liver damage and decreased immune functions resulting in less resistance to other disease such as avian pox when fed contaminated grains containing aflatoxins at levels of 100 to 400 ppb, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has expended tremendous amounts of time and effort restoring wild turkeys throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, drought conditions experienced throughout the state have reduced natural food availability in the form of forage and mast, and

WHEREAS, under these conditions wildlife respond more readily to supplemental feeding programs, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease group has recommended that grains contaminated with aflatoxins in excess of levels allowable in animal feeds (100 ppb) should not be used in supplemental wildlife feeding programs, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby prohibit the use of corn for supplemental feeding of wildlife, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this ban will remain in effect until such time that the Secretary determines the level of aflatoxins no longer pose a threat to wildlife.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7 and R.S. 56:6, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

The supplemental feeding of corn to wildlife is prohibited until such time that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries determines that contamination levels of aflatoxins no longer pose a threat to Louisiana's wildlife populations.

Severe drought conditions this summer have resulted in Louisiana's corn crop exhibiting unusually high levels of contamination from aflatoxins. In some instances, levels have reached 1500 parts per billion (USDA guidelines for human consumption and animal feed range from 20 to 100 ppb). Under these conditions more contaminated grain may be offered for sale as wildlife feed because the grain cannot meet the aflatoxin standards established for grain intended for domestic animal or human consumption. Since corn is the predominant grain used throughout the state for feeding wildlife and research has shown that feeds contaminated with aflatoxins can have adverse effects on all wildlife, especially birds, the Commission has determined that a prohibition of feeding corn is in the best interest of wildlife in Louisiana. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because supplemental feeding activity for deer and other wildlife has begun

and will peak through the next several months. Steps must be taken now to ensure that the public is aware of this problem and every effort has been made to ensure that wildlife species are not adversely impacted as a result of aflatoxin poisoning.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also grants the Secretary of the Department the authority to rescind and/or extend this Declaration of Emergency if conditions warrant.

This Declaration of Emergency will become effective August 6, 1998 and will extend for a minimum of 120 days or until such time that contamination levels have been reduced.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

By Dr. James Earl Kennamer

BIOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

DEER CORN CAN HARM WILD TURKEYS

JAMES EARL KENNAMER

Surplus corn and grain may look like a valuable, inexpensive way to supplement wildlife feeding on your property, but a closer examination might reveal it can do more harm than good.



Feed corn that has been stored for any length of time is subject to contamination by fungi that produce aflatoxin, a chemical detected only by laboratory testing, but which is harmful to wildlife, livestock and humans.

3 Ever wondered why corn or other grain is sold at some local stores at a low cost to feed wildlife? Often it is because the grain does not meet U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards and cannot be sold to feed livestock or humans.

Although not visible to the naked eye, two types of fungi can grow on corn and other grains. Under certain environmental conditions, both fungi can produce chemical byproducts called aflatoxins that can only be detected by laboratory testing and is toxic to humans and animals.

The FDA regulates the amount of aflatoxin allowed in animal feeds. It

permits, for example, a maximum level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) in grains used for human consumption or dairy cows. However, when aflatoxin levels are too high for grain to be marketed, contaminated feed is often used for wildlife, especially in the Southeast where hunting white-tailed deer over bait is legal in some areas. But deer are not the only animals feeding on this contaminated feed—so are wild turkeys.

Animals that ingest large quantities of this toxin can experience loss of appetite, loss of physical coordination,

convulsions, difficulty breathing and sudden death. Lower levels of ingestion can result in impaired liver function, reduction in weight gain, and depression of the immune system, which may predispose the animal to secondary diseases. Researchers also have shown that aflatoxin ingestion can cause liver cancer in humans and some animal species.

For example, a study by Dr. Charlotte Quist at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) found liver damage in juvenile

white-tailed deer fed aflatoxin-contaminated feed at 800 ppb.

There is little known about the impact of aflatoxins on wildlife populations as a whole. Aflatoxin poisoning in birds, however, has resulted in large die-offs. For example, 7,000 mallards were found dead in Texas after they ingested contaminated peanuts with an aflatoxin level of 110 ppb. Five hundred snow geese were reportedly killed after consuming aflatoxin-contaminated corn. Researchers also have determined that quail chicks fed aflatoxin-contaminated feed at 400-1,200 ppb had lower body weights and reduced survival when compared to quail not fed contaminated feed.

The impacts of aflatoxins on wildlife populations are largely dependent on the degree of contamination and the level of availability to wildlife. SCWDS initiated a 1993 pilot study in North and South Carolina to determine potential exposure of white-tailed deer and other wildlife to aflatoxin in corn provided as bait or in supplemental feed by sampling bait piles and storage bins from 39 sites on public and private lands.

Their findings were disturbing. They found that 51 percent of the samples were contaminated with aflatoxins. Ten percent of the samples had extremely high levels (greater than 300 ppb) of the contaminant.

A study of aflatoxin effects on wild turkeys (partially funded through the NWTf) conducted by the SCWDS and directed by Quist found

that even short-term, low levels of aflatoxin ingestion (100 ppb) affected juvenile (four months old) wild turkeys. (In studies using domestic turkey poults, death has been observed in five-week-old poults fed aflatoxin levels over 400 ppb.)

Results of feeding wild turkeys the aflatoxin-contaminated grain included low-level liver damage and depression of

the immune system. It is unknown if depression of the immune system caused by aflatoxin ingestion can facilitate acute outbreaks of diseases such as avian pox.

Quist recommends that the true impact of aflatoxin poisoning on disease outbreaks in wildlife populations should be studied. The degree to which wild turkeys (and other species) are potentially impacted by this toxin is determined by several factors, such as how much

contaminated feed the turkey will eat, the individual turkey's response to the toxin, the toxin's distribution in the bait pile, and the length of time the fungus

has been producing the toxin (i.e., concentration of the toxin). If the contaminated feed is the only item the bird is feeding on, poisoning will be more significant.

Based on their results, the SCWDS recommended that feeds used for wildlife be held to the same strict standards as feed for domestic animals and livestock.

Quist stresses that aflatoxin-contaminated feed is not just a problem in the Southeast, which provides the ideal warm, moist weather conditions conducive to fungus growth. Artificially fed wildlife in northern climates are also subject to aflatoxin poisoning. Although temperatures below freezing will kill the fungus that produces the toxin, it is unknown how much time is needed before the toxin will break down.

The fungus looks like mold and, if a large quantity of the fungi are present, it can be visible. This, however, is not always the case. If only a few fungi are growing, it may not be visible, but, can still produce high levels of the aflatoxin.

Quist recommends that questionable feed be sent to your local agricultural extension office for testing (call your local extension office for specific mailing information).

When shipping suspect feed for testing, send the grain in a paper sack instead of a plastic bag. Plastic sacks tend to hold moisture. If significant toxin levels are found, discard the feed.

If the feed proves to be safe, be sure to protect it against fungus growth by storing it in paper sacks and keeping it cool and dry. This will help minimize the risk of contaminating wildlife on your property.

***The Southeastern
Cooperative Wildlife
Disease Study (SCWDS)
initiated a 1993 pilot study
in North and South
Carolina to determine
potential exposure of white-
tailed deer and other
wildlife to aflatoxin in
corn provided as bait or in
supplemental feed by
sampling bait piles and
storage bins
from 39 sites on public and
private lands. Their findings
were disturbing.***

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Field Manual
of
Wildlife Diseases
in the
Southeastern
United States

William R. Davidson
and
Victor F. Nettles



AFLATOXICOSIS

CAUSATIVE AGENT... Mycotoxins, which are toxins produced by fungi, are important causes of disease in domestic livestock and occasionally have been associated with wildlife mortality. Members of the genus *Aspergillus*, including *Aspergillus flavus* and *A. parasiticus*, are of particular importance and produce a mycotoxin called aflatoxin. There are many forms of aflatoxin, the most important of which is aflatoxin B₁. These toxins can be found in spoiled feed, particularly cereal grains, corn, and peanuts that are contaminated by *Aspergillus*. Exposure and subsequent toxicosis occur when an animal ingests toxins present in grain. The toxin is immunosuppressive, hepatotoxic, and carcinogenic.

CLINICAL SIGNS... Clinical signs vary according to the dose received, the time period over which the animal is exposed, and the species of animal. Toxic effects can be roughly divided into three categories: acute, subacute, and chronic.

Acute Syndrome—Clinical signs reflect acute, severe liver disease. The animal may be anemic, anorexic, and depressed. Neurological signs such as ataxia and convulsions may be observed, and the animal may have difficulty breathing. In acute cases sudden death may occur with no observed clinical signs.

Subacute Syndrome—These animals tend to live for a longer period of time so that liver damage can be further manifested by icterus (yellowed skin, mucous membranes, or eyes) and abnormalities in blood clotting. Bruising, nose-

bleeds, and hemorrhagic enteritis may be observed in addition to the clinical signs seen in the acute syndrome.

Chronic Syndrome—The chronic effects of aflatoxicosis are insidious and can generally be related to impaired liver function. Long-term, low level consumption of aflatoxins tends to produce reduced feed efficiency and weight gains, inappetence, immunosuppression with predisposition to secondary infectious diseases, and general unthriftiness. Aflatoxins have also been shown to produce liver cancer.

LESIONS

Acute and Subacute Syndrome—The liver may be enlarged and swollen and may appear pale gray to tan in color with focal areas of hemorrhagic necrosis. Widespread hemorrhages and edema may be observed in addition to fluid accumulation in the abdominal or thoracic cavities. Hemorrhage and inflammation of the mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract may also be seen.

Chronic Syndrome—The liver may appear fibrotic with regenerative nodules present. Proliferation of the bile ducts is a common finding. Tumors may also be seen.

ANIMALS AFFECTED... Birds, fish, and mammals (including humans) can be affected. Susceptibility to aflatoxins varies among species. Birds appear to be more susceptible than mammals.

DIAGNOSIS... Diagnosis is made by measurement of aflatoxin levels in grain, body tissues, or fluids and by histopathologic examination of tis-

sue samples. A representative sample of the suspected feed involved should be obtained, placed in a dry container (preferably a paper or cloth bag but not in plastic or a sealed jar), and sent to a diagnostic laboratory immediately. Tissue (liver) or body fluids (blood, milk, and urine) should be collected and frozen immediately, using dry ice or liquid nitrogen, and sent to a diagnostic laboratory. Delay between collection and freezing of tissues or body fluids may result in lowered levels of toxin due to metabolism by tissue enzymes. Tissue samples for histopathologic examination should be collected from all major organs and preserved in 10 percent buffered formalin. If aflatoxicosis is suspected, the diagnostic laboratory should be contacted for further advice and instructions on sample collection and submission.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SIGNIFICANCE

... Wildlife management significance is minimal unless wildlife have access to large amounts of heavily contaminated grain. Occasional local mortalities of waterfowl due to aflatoxicosis have been documented. These die-offs were associated with consumption of contaminated waste grains and peanuts. The importance of chronic low level aflatoxin ingestion by wildlife is unknown; however, since animals have the ability to activate enzyme systems to detoxify mycotoxins, they probably can minimize or avoid the toxic effects of low level ingestion. Grains known to be contaminated with aflatoxin in excess of levels allowable in animal feeds should not be used in supplemental wildlife feeding programs.

PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE ... Handling of carcasses of wildlife dying due to aflatoxicosis is not considered a human health risk, although such animals should not be consumed.

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, LA August 6, 1998.

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is mandated constitutionally to protect, manage and conserve the wildlife resources of the state, and
- WHEREAS,** severe drought conditions experienced this summer have resulted Louisiana's corn crop exhibiting high levels of contamination from aflatoxins with up to 1500 parts per billion (ppb), and
- WHEREAS,** in years like this more contaminated grain is offered for sale as wildlife feed since it cannot meet the aflatoxin standards established for grain intended for domestic animal or human consumption, and
- WHEREAS,** corn is the predominant grain used throughout the state for feeding wildlife, and
- WHEREAS,** research has shown that feeds contaminated with aflatoxins can have adverse effects on all wildlife, especially birds, and
- WHEREAS,** supplemental feeding activity for deer and other wildlife has begun and will peak through the next several months, and
- WHEREAS,** deer fed contaminated grain may experience reduced food intake and associated weight loss and liver disfunction at aflatoxin levels of 800 ppb , and
- WHEREAS,** this time frame coincides with the peak of fawn nursing and growth, a time when does are most stressed over most of the state and deer are also experiencing drought related stress, and
- WHEREAS,** wild turkeys, quail, dove and a variety of song birds also utilize supplemental feeding stations supplied with corn, and
- WHEREAS,** research has also indicated that juvenile wild turkeys exhibit evidence of liver damage and decreased immune functions resulting in less resistance to other disease such as avian pox when fed contaminated grains containing aflatoxins at levels of 100 to 400 ppb, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has expended tremendous amounts of time and effort restoring wild turkeys throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, drought conditions experienced throughout the state have reduced natural food availability in the form of forage and mast, and

WHEREAS, under these conditions wildlife respond more readily to supplemental feeding programs, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease group has recommended that grains contaminated with aflatoxins in excess of levels allowable in animal feeds (100 ppb) should not be used in supplemental wildlife feeding programs, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission does hereby notify the public of its actions to ban supplemental feeding of corn for wildlife by Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this ban will remain in effect for a minimum of 120 days or until such time that contamination levels have been reduced.

Thomas M. Gattle Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and
Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Louisiana Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of R.S. , the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Emergency Rule:

Prohibition of Supplemental Feeding of Corn to Wildlife

Severe drought conditions experienced this summer have resulted Louisiana's corn crop exhibiting high levels of contamination from aflatoxins. In some instances levels have reached levels of 1500 parts per billion (USDA guidelines for human consumption and animal feed range from 20 to 100 ppb). In years like this more contaminated grain is offered for sale as wildlife feed because the grain cannot meet the aflatoxin standards established for grain intended for domestic animal or human consumption. Since corn is the predominant grain used throughout the state for feeding wildlife and research has shown that feeds contaminated with aflatoxins can have adverse effects on all wildlife, especially birds, the Commission feels that a prohibition of feeding corn is in the best interest of wildlife in Louisiana. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because supplemental feeding activity for deer and other wildlife has begun and will peak through the next several months. Steps must be taken now to ensure that the public is aware of this problem and every effort has been made to ensure that wildlife species are not adversely impacted as a result of aflatoxin poisoning.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also grants the Secretary of the Department the authority to rescind and/or extend this Declaration of Emergency **if** conditions warrant.

This Declaration of Emergency will become effective immediately and will extend for a minimum of 120 days or until such time that contamination levels have been reduced.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

faxed 12:10PM

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Tom Gattle
Fax #: 318-559-1524
Subject: Corn Declaration of Emergency
Date: July 31, 1998
Pages: 5, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Hugh Bateman's telephone number is 504-765-2346.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

**Louisiana State Chapter
of the
National Wild Turkey Federation**

August 6, 1998

Mr. Tom Gattle
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation have voted unanimously in support of the following resolution:

"The Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation supports the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' recommendation for a temporary ban on the use of corn for feeding wildlife in Louisiana due to the widespread contamination of Louisiana's corn crop with aflatoxin."

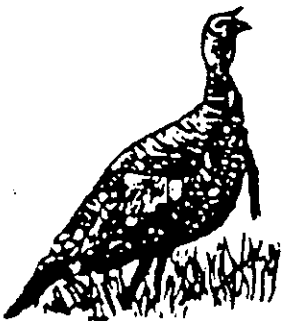
In Louisiana, there are 3,200 NWTF members and 26 local chapters throughout the state.

Sincerely,


Joe Cagnolatti

JPC:cl

cc: Butch Bateman
James Earl Kennamer



Joe Cagnolatti
President
1606 S. Houmas Ave.
Gonzales, LA 70737

Chris Campbell
Vice President
5815 Gilbert
Shreveport, LA 71106

Ken Dancak
Secretary
2500 Shreveport Hwy.
Pineville, LA 71360

Joe McKey
Treasurer
5254 Bluebird
Alexandria, LA 71303

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-231

7/31/98

BLIGHTED CORN POSES WILDLIFE HEALTH RISK

Due to concerns over potential wildlife health risks, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is strongly considering that the use of corn to feed wildlife be prohibited by law. This concern comes after reports from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) that large quantities of this year's 700,000 acre corn crop is contaminated with aflatoxin.

Aflatoxin is a toxic by product of fungus (*Aspergillus flavus* and *A. parasiticus*) that can be harmful to wildlife, livestock and in rare cases humans. "We are extremely concerned about the potential implications that contaminated corn may have for wildlife, especially birds," said LDWF Secretary James Jenkins. This statement came after Jenkins expressed his deep sympathy for Louisiana's farmers, many of whom will suffer considerable economic losses due to extreme drought conditions. Some Louisiana fields being tested for the toxin have contamination rates of over 1,000 parts per billion (ppb).

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and LSU Agricultural Center are currently working with farmers to deal with the problem. In many cases contaminated corn is being left unharvested and plowed back into fields. In other cases where crops are harvested, trucks containing thousands of pounds of contaminated corn may be turned away from granaries, leaving farmers with huge amounts of grain to dispose of. LDAF has recommended that farmers either bury the grain or store it for later disposal.

Corn is often fed to wildlife by the public intending to attract or supplement the diet of wildlife. Exposure to contaminated grain may be intensified in areas where wildlife have become conditioned to make repeated daily visits to artificial corn feeding sites.

Large ruminants like deer can tolerate relatively high levels of aflatoxin exposure but young animals appear to be more susceptible to physical complications such as damage to internal organs and degradation of the immune system which leave them vulnerable to secondary diseases. Animals that ingest large quantities of aflatoxin can experience loss of appetite, loss of physical coordination, convulsions, difficulty breathing and in some cases sudden death.

-over-

corn/add-one.

Birds are particularly susceptible to the effects of this toxin. Amounts between 100-400 ppb have been shown to have significant health implications for turkeys. The Department's primary concern is that significant amounts of contaminated corn may be sold cheaply and used to feed wildlife. If this happens it could present significant health risks for many birds from cardinals to wild turkeys and indeed any wildlife that is exposed. Aflatoxin is not visible to the naked eye and rates of contamination can only be detected by special testing equipment. Even lightly contaminated corn that is improperly stored and exposed to heat and moisture can become highly toxic. If this type of grain is used to feed wildlife it could be very lethal. The exact amounts of aflatoxin exposure that causes physical damage, especially over the long term, to most wildlife species, particularly small mammals and song birds is not known.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has set limits on the amount of aflatoxin contamination allowed for grains used for interstate shipment. It permits a maximum of 20 ppb in grains used for feeding dairy cattle and in products destined for human consumption. According to recent news releases from the LDAF, the FDA has relaxed those limits up to 300 ppb in corn products shipped to cattle feed lots.

In light of this unfortunate and unusual situation the Department may recommend the prohibition of the use of corn for feeding wildlife until this immediate crisis has passed; possibly over the remainder of 1998 and 1999. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hear discussion on this issue and consider appropriate action at their Aug. 6, 1998 meeting in Baton Rouge at the Department's Quail Drive Office.

Department personnel are stressing that the degree of human health risk is not great for casual handling of contaminated grain products or consuming otherwise healthy game animals believed to have been feeding on such grain. However, the LDWF is urging in the strongest possible terms that anyone who is currently feeding or plans to begin feeding corn to wildlife for whatever purpose, avoid using cheap, low grade, field corn that very well may be contaminated with aflatoxin. Attached are some basic recommendations to follow regarding supplemental feeding of wildlife.

-30-

EDITORS: For more information contact the LDWF, Wildlife Division in Baton Rouge at 504/765-2376.

Guidelines for Supplemental Feeding of Deer

There is much concern about the present aflatoxin problem in Louisiana corn. The use of corn to attract deer during the hunting season is widespread throughout Louisiana. Research has shown that large mammals such as deer can tolerate higher levels of aflatoxin than birds. Most of the corn distributed for deer is readily accessible to birds and is readily used by wild turkeys. In areas occupied by wild turkeys it is of the utmost importance that hunters take all necessary precautions to eliminate any possible threat to this important resource. A lot of time, effort, and money has gone into the restoration of wild turkeys in Louisiana and it would be most unfortunate to lose or reduce a growing population of turkeys. Other game bird species as well as many songbird species also frequent such feeding sites and it is important that these birds also receive protection. These guidelines for the supplemental feeding of deer are being offered to help deal with the problem of contaminated corn.

1) Serious consideration should be given to deer hunting without using bait. Deer can be effectively hunted without the use of bait. This, however, requires a certain degree of scouting on the part of the hunter to locate natural feeding areas, trails and travel corridors, etc.

2) The hardwood mast crops, both hard and soft mast, have always been important to our Louisiana deer herds. Natural foods are the first choice of deer with supplemental feed being second. Search your woodlands in late September to locate feed trees. In years of abundant mast crops reduce or eliminate supplemental feeding altogether.

3) Place emphasis this year on growing forage (grasses and clovers) in food plots to attract deer. Eliminate feeders in food plot sites. Fertilize native plant food sites around food plots. Incorporate hardwood plantings (oaks and pecans) within these food plots for future years.

4) If feeding is done use only grain approved for human or livestock use. If you are not certain whether the corn has been tested and approved, ask the manager. Corn packaged in sacks that says "deer corn" does not necessarily mean it has been tested and approved. **Do not** use untested corn directly from the fields or corn that has an aflatoxin level of 100 ppb or higher. Consider using another type of grain such as sorghum or soybeans.

5) If turkeys are present in an area consider fencing the feeding site to help keep the turkeys away from the corn. It is recommended that the site be 48' X 48' with a 3' tall fence. It may take some time for the deer to become accustomed to jumping into the feeding site.

6) Use feeders that protect the corn from the weather to reduce contamination and spoilage. It is recommended to use feeders which dispense grain into a weather protected trough rather than scattering it upon the ground. The use of feeders with smaller hoppers will keep corn fresh; these containers may have to be filled more often but it will reduce spoilage. If corn accidentally gets wet, **do not** use it for feeding deer.

7) If corn is dispersed on the ground use a timed feeder that limits the amount of corn thrown.

8) Move the location of feeding sites periodically to reduce the risk of exposure to disease organisms and parasites which accumulate over time on the ground.

9) Make feeders as raccoon proof as possible. Supplemental feeding can elevate local raccoon populations which are important nest predators of turkeys in the southeast.

10) Terminate the feeding program by Feb. 15. The fat accumulation cycle in deer begins in the fall (September) and ends prior to green-up (March). The spring and summer months are the growing time for deer and their diets are high in proteins. Corn provides carbohydrates which are less important at those times of the year.

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July 31, 1998

Mr. Hugh A. Bateman, Administrator
 Division of Game
 Louisiana Department of
 Wildlife and Fisheries
 Post Office Box 98000
 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages	8
To	Hugh Bateman		
From	Vic Nettles		
Co.	Hand copy to follow		
Dept.	Phone #		
Fax #	Fax #		

Dear Mr. Bateman:

Enclosed are several informational items on aflatoxin and wildlife. There are four articles from our newsletter, *SCWDS BRIEFS* and the aflatoxin section from our new *Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases in the Southeastern United States*. We share your concerns about heavy exposure of wildlife through feeding and baiting with condemned corn that will be available this year due to unacceptable contamination. Understandably, most people who buy the contaminated corn will be placing it out to feed deer. We have determined that deer tolerate aflatoxin fairly well; however, we also demonstrated that aflatoxin has undesirable effects on wild turkeys. In addition, we have expressed our concerns that aflatoxins could have on other wildlife species, particularly songbirds, although we do not have any experimental data.

Under current knowledge, we feel that grains in excess of allowable limits for use in animal feeds should not be deliberately used to feed wildlife. In regard to the question of human safety, we do not believe that consumption of *normal-appearing* wildlife poses any risk to human health and that handling wildlife that have consumed aflatoxin contaminated corn is a cause for concern.

I trust that these informational items will be useful to your Agency. Please call if you need additional assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Victor F. Nettles, D.V.M., Ph.D.
 Director

VFN:

Enclosures

Aflatoxin and White-Tailed Deer

January 1994, 9.4

As reported in the last issue of the SCWDS BRIEFS (Vol. 9, No. 3), concerns have been voiced about the exposure of wildlife to high levels of aflatoxin in contaminated corn. SCWDS subsequently conducted a small-scale survey to determine aflatoxin levels in field samples of corn used to feed wildlife and an experimental study to evaluate the possible effects of aflatoxin on white-tailed deer.

Wildlife biologists from North Carolina and South Carolina submitted 38 samples of corn from bait piles, storage bins, and fields. These samples were tested by the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at The University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. Aflatoxin levels in 18 of the 38 samples ranged from 22 to 750 parts per billion (ppb). The remaining samples contained less than the 20 ppb limit set for interstate marketing of grain products.

Using information derived from the field survey of corn samples, a feeding trial of captive white-tailed deer fawns was begun in late November. One group of young deer was fed a ration containing approximately 800 ppb of aflatoxin, while a control group received the same ration without aflatoxin. Parameters of liver and immune function were monitored, as were feed consumption and weight gain. The fawns were examined grossly and microscopically at the conclusion of the trial. Final results are pending and should provide information regarding the effects of chronic exposure of white-tailed deer to high aflatoxin levels. With this information, better recommendations can be made concerning acceptable and unacceptable aflatoxin levels in grains available to deer.

Aflatoxin Fed to White-tailed Deer October 1994, 10.3

Last year, environmental conditions in some areas of the Southeast were conducive for production of aflatoxin in corn. SCWDS was contacted by several biologists who were concerned that condemned grain was being diverted for use as wildlife feed, particularly in North Carolina and South Carolina where baiting deer for hunting is allowed. Aflatoxins are metabolites of *Aspergillus* fungi and are known to cause decreased feed intake and efficiency, reduced weight gains, hepatotoxicity, immune suppression, carcinogenesis, and even death in domestic livestock and fowl. Comparable knowledge on aflatoxicosis in wildlife is sketchy.

Because studies regarding acceptable levels of aflatoxin had not been done in deer, SCWDS conducted an 8-week pilot study to assess changes in deer health. A secondary objective was to evaluate the potential threat to humans from consumption of meat from deer fed contaminated grain. The dose of aflatoxin used in the study, 800 parts per billion (ppb), was based on the findings of a 1993 study of aflatoxin levels found in deer bait piles (see SCWDS BRIEFS Vol. 9, No. 4).

Fourteen white-tailed deer fawns were used. Half the deer received aflatoxin B₁-spiked feed (AFB₁) daily and the other half of the deer were fed the same ration without aflatoxin. Over the course of the study, parameters such as feed consumption, feed conversion, liver function, and immune function were measured. After 8 weeks, all animals were euthanized. Necropsy examinations were performed, and liver and muscle samples were analyzed for aflatoxin metabolites.

Clinical illness due to aflatoxin was not evident. However, aflatoxin-fed deer had reduced feed consumption by the end of the study. Feed conversion was similar in the 2 groups. Some of the youngest fawns had alterations in hepatic function and gross and histologic lesions that were attributable to aflatoxicosis. There were no detectable differences in immune function. In the exposed animals, residue analyses revealed low levels of an aflatoxin metabolite in the livers, but not in muscle.

This study demonstrated that consumption of low-levels of AFB₁ by white-tailed deer fawns can cause subclinical liver damage which, if prolonged, could be harmful. It is probable that older deer would be more tolerant of aflatoxins. Based on this trial, we concluded that corn containing up to 800 ppb aflatoxin would not be harmful to white-tailed deer when provided as a short-term bait source. Free-ranging deer are not likely to use the bait corn as their total diet; therefore, their intake of aflatoxin probably would be far below 800 ppb. Tissue residues in liver and muscle of deer fed 800 ppb AFB₁ are not considered a threat to persons consuming the meat.

In spite of these results, we are hesitant to condone the use of aflatoxin-contaminated corn as feed for deer, based on concern for the potential risks to more susceptible non-target wildlife species, notably birds, that could ingest the grain.

Aflatoxin Tested in Wild Turkeys

April 1997, 13.1

Aflatoxins, which are toxic byproducts of the fungus *Aspergillus*, can produce disease in a wide variety of animals and humans. Experimental studies in poultry and domestic animals have shown that aflatoxins can cause poor feed utilization, depressed weight gain, lowered immune responses, liver damage, blood clotting abnormalities, cancer, and death. Heat and drought damage to corn enhances aflatoxin production in the field, or the fungi can overgrow in grains that become moldy in storage. Accordingly, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration monitors and restricts levels of aflatoxins that are allowed in foods such as corn, other cereal grains, and peanuts that are intended for animal or human consumption.

A few published case reports implicate aflatoxin as a mortality factor in waterfowl; however, aflatoxicosis has not been widely recognized as a threat to wildlife, possibly because the dose of aflatoxins is diluted by other foods eaten under natural conditions. As opposed to natural conditions, exposure to aflatoxins could be increased substantially when contaminated feed is deliberately offered to wildlife as feed or bait. SCWDS has received numerous inquiries from biologists who suspected that contaminated corn was being used to feed or bait wildlife. A pilot survey conducted by SCWDS in 1993 revealed that a substantial percentage (41%) of corn piles placed to bait deer contained aflatoxin levels above those allowed in human food (>20 parts per billion). In 1994, we conducted a feeding trial in penned white-tailed deer and concluded that aflatoxin did not appear to be a serious threat when fed to deer at levels up to 800 parts per billion over short periods (8 weeks). It should be noted that ruminants are among the most resistant species to aflatoxins, and we maintained serious reservations regarding the effects of aflatoxin on other wildlife species, particularly birds, which generally are more susceptible to aflatoxicosis.

Through supplemental funding from the National Wild Turkey Federation, SCWDS recently completed a study that evaluated the response of wild turkeys to various levels of dietary aflatoxin. Four-month-old pen-raised wild turkeys were used; birds of this age were chosen to simulate fall exposure of juvenile wild turkeys to aflatoxins at deer bait piles. Three groups were fed 100, 200, or 400 parts per billion of aflatoxin in the feed over 2 weeks; the fourth group served as a control. Preliminary results indicate that aflatoxin-fed birds had decreased weight gains and feed consumption as compared to control birds. Blood chemistry alterations attributable to liver dysfunction were seen at varying degrees depending on the dose of aflatoxin fed. Decreased liver weights, liver enzyme alterations, slightly altered blood coagulation patterns, and mild histologic changes were indicative of low-level liver damage. Immune function, particularly the cell-mediated portion, also was compromised. The effects were seen in all treatment groups, but statistically significant effects generally were seen only at the highest level (400 parts per billion). This study indicates that short-term, low-level aflatoxin ingestion can have an effect on juvenile wild turkeys and suggests that feeds containing aflatoxin even as low as 100 parts per billion should be avoided for use as wildlife feeds. Based on these results, we contend that feeds used for wildlife should be held to the same standards as for domestic animal and human use. If there is any question on the status of a wildlife feed, aflatoxin assays can be obtained through most state veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Aflatoxin Threat to Wildlife

October 1993, 9.3

SCWDS has received numerous telephone calls this fall about possible effects of aflatoxin-contaminated corn consumed by wildlife. Aflatoxins are produced by fungi of the genus *Aspergillus*. Heat and drought-related damage to corn, such as occurred in many areas of the Southeast this summer, provides optimal conditions for growth of this fungus. Toxins can be produced in the field or when harvested grain is improperly stored under cool, moist conditions. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has established a maximum aflatoxin level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for condemnation of corn destined for consumption by humans, dairy cattle, and young livestock. Higher levels, from 100 to 300 ppb, are allowed for grain fed to hogs or cattle. Because many corn crops were rejected by feed companies this year, people have been looking for alternative ways to dispose of contaminated corn.

The point in question has been the risks to wildlife health if this corn is used as supplemental wildlife feed or, where legal, for deer bait. Unfortunately, the effects of aflatoxins on wild animals are not clear. Information regarding the susceptibility of wildlife is lacking, although a few case reports have implicated aflatoxin as a cause of mortality in migratory waterfowl. In a SCWDS pilot project in 1980, young white-tailed deer died within 10 to 48 hours of instillation of high doses of aflatoxin into the rumen; however, these findings may not be relative to dosages received under natural conditions.

The best information available on aflatoxicosis comes from domestic animals and humans. Depending upon the dosage, health problems range from acute to chronic liver damage, increased susceptibility to infectious diseases, cancer, and death. Among domestic animals, there is marked species variation in susceptibility to the toxins. In general, birds are more susceptible than mammals, and young animals are more sensitive than adults. Human health problems usually are due to consumption of contaminated grains or milk and not from eating the meat of an animal that has consumed aflatoxins.

In view of the well-known effects of aflatoxin in domestic animals, feeding of contaminated materials to wildlife should be discouraged. Piling contaminated corn on the ground for feed or bait could enhance further toxin production; therefore, aflatoxin levels in bait piles may increase with time. Furthermore, baiting provides wildlife with access to larger quantities of these toxins than they would have under natural conditions. Until the effects of aflatoxins on wildlife health have been properly evaluated, it must be assumed that disease problems similar to those seen in domestic animals can occur. At present, SCWDS will retain the position stated in the *Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases in the Southeastern United States* as follows, "Grains known to be contaminated with aflatoxin in excess of levels allowable in animal feeds should not be used in supplemental wildlife feeding programs."



Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases in the Southeastern United States

Second Edition

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and
Victor F. Nettles

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AFLEATOXICOSIS

CAUSATIVE AGENT.... Mycotoxins, which are toxins produced by fungi, are important causes of disease in domestic livestock and poultry and occasionally have been associated with wildlife mortality. Fungi in the genus *Aspergillus*, including *Aspergillus flavus* and *A. parasiticus*, are of particular importance and produce a mycotoxin called aflatoxin. There are many forms of aflatoxin, the most important of which is aflatoxin B₁. These toxins can be found in spoiled feed, particularly cereal grains, corn, and peanuts that are contaminated by *Aspergillus*. Exposure and subsequent toxicoosis occur when an animal ingests toxins present in grain. The toxin is immunosuppressive, hepatotoxic, and carcinogenic.

CLINICAL SIGNS.... Clinical signs vary according to the dose received, the time period over which the animal is exposed, and the species of animal. Toxic effects can be roughly divided into three categories: acute, subacute, and chronic.

Acute Syndrome.—Clinical signs reflect acute, severe liver disease. The animal may be anemic, anorexic, and depressed. Neurological signs such as ataxia and convulsions may be observed, and the animal may have difficulty breathing. In acute cases, sudden death may occur with no observed clinical signs.

Subacute Syndrome.—These animals tend to live for a longer period of time, so liver damage can be further manifested by icterus (yellowed skin, mucous membranes, or eyes) and abnormalities in blood clotting. Bruising, nosebleeds, and hemorrhagic enteritis may be observed in

addition to the clinical signs seen in the acute syndrome.

Chronic Syndrome.—The chronic effects of aflatoxicosis are insidious and can generally be related to impaired liver function. Long-term, low level consumption of aflatoxins tends to produce reduced feed efficiency and weight gains, impairment, immunosuppression with predisposition to secondary infectious diseases, and general unthriftiness. Aflatoxins have also been shown to cause liver cancer.

LESIONS

Acute and Subacute Syndrome.—The liver may be enlarged and swollen and may appear pale gray to tan in color with focal areas of hemorrhagic necrosis. Widespread hemorrhages and edema may be observed in addition to fluid accumulation in the abdominal or thoracic cavities. Hemorrhage and inflammation of the mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract may also be seen.

Chronic Syndrome.—The liver may appear fibrotic with regenerative nodules present. Proliferation of the bile ducts is a common finding. Tumors also may be seen.

ANIMALS AFFECTED.... Birds, fish, and mammals (including humans) can be affected. Susceptibility to aflatoxins varies among species. Birds tend to be more susceptible than mammals, and among mammals, monogastric species are more susceptible than ruminants. In general, young animals are more susceptible than adults.

DIAGNOSIS.... Diagnosis is made by measurement of aflatoxin levels in grain, body tissues, or

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fluids and by histopathologic examination of tissue samples. A representative sample of the suspected feed involved should be obtained, placed in a dry container (preferably a paper or cloth bag but not in plastic or a sealed jar), and sent to a diagnostic laboratory immediately. Tissue (liver) or body fluids (blood, milk, and urine) should be collected and frozen immediately, using dry ice or liquid nitrogen, and sent to a diagnostic laboratory. Delay between collection and freezing of tissues or body fluids may result in lowered levels of toxin due to metabolism by tissue enzymes. Tissue samples for histopathologic examination should be collected from all major organs and preserved in 10 percent buffered formalin. If aflatoxicosis is suspected, the diagnostic laboratory should be contacted for further advice and instructions on sample collection and submission.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SIGNIFICANCE...

Wildlife management significance is minimal unless wildlife have access to large quantities of heavily contaminated grain. Local mortalities of waterfowl have been documented that were associated with consumption of contaminated waste grains and peanuts. Animals have the ability to activate enzyme systems to detoxify mycotoxins, but the safe levels of mycotoxin in feed for most species of wildlife are unknown. White-tailed deer fed a diet containing 800 ppb of aflatoxin for several weeks had minimal signs of intoxication, but acute disease and mortalities were seen in deer given exceptionally high doses of purified B₁ toxin. Juvenile wild turkeys fed 100 to 400 ppb aflatoxin had evidence of liver damage and decreased immune function. Grains known to be contaminated with

Toxicoses • 23

aflatoxins in excess of levels allowable in animal feeds should not be used in supplemental wildlife feeding programs.

PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE...

Handling of carcasses of wildlife dying due to aflatoxicosis is not considered a human health risk, although such animals should not be consumed.



Press Release

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
LSU Agricultural Center

July 24, 1998

Aflatoxin, bi-product of a fungal infection which generally occurs in drought-stressed corn, has become a serious concern for Louisiana corn producers.

With corn harvest beginning in Louisiana, farmers already have had some of their grain turned away from elevators because of high aflatoxin levels.

The LSU Agricultural Center and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry are working closely together to provide information and assistance to Louisiana corn farmers and grain elevators.

"Aflatoxin is a major concern for Louisiana corn producers this year," said Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Commissioner Bob Odom. "We have joined forces with the LSU Agricultural Center to provide testing opportunities, equipment and supplies that are similar to those used by the grain elevators. We have suspended the fee at the Agricultural Chemistry lab for farmers to submit their corn for analysis and we have expanded our on-site testing to 10 areas of the state. This will help farmers make harvesting and marketing decisions as their corn matures."

"We're looking at a major loss of income to corn farmers and ultimately to the state if we can't help overcome this problem," added Dr. Larry Rogers, LSU Ag Center vice chancellor and director of the LSU Agricultural Experiment Station.

According to Commissioner Odom, "There are about 720,000 acres of corn in Louisiana this year. Preliminary estimates indicate that over 50% of Louisiana's corn crop with a value of \$62 million has been lost to the drought. Loss of the remainder will truly be a total financial disaster for Louisiana farmers," Odom said.

"Farmers will have to weigh the cost of total rejection against the expense of preventing loss" said Extension Service economist Dr. Ken Wegenhoft.

In order to determine the levels of aflatoxin that may be present in their crops, farmers may sample their fields and have the samples tested prior to harvesting and delivering the grain to the elevator.

Sites have been established to begin testing Saturday at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry field offices in Opelousas and Vidalia, the Agricultural Chemistry Building on the LSU campus at Baton Rouge and at the Dean Lee Research Station near Alexandria. Testing will also begin early next week at the Red River Research Station in Bossier City, the Northeast Research Station in St. Joseph, the Macon Ridge Research Station in Winnsboro, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry field offices in Monroe, Lake Providence and Natchitoches with additional sites to be announced as the need arises.

County agents of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service will be available to collect samples

from producers in their parishes and transport the samples to the sampling sites, if the producers prefer, according to Dr. Jack Bagent, LSU Ag Center vice chancellor and director of LSU Cooperative Extension Service.

The results of the testing are no guarantee that corn in a particular field is acceptable or not," Rogers said. "But farmers can use the results as part of their management decision on how to manage the crop."

Measured in parts per billion (ppb), aflatoxin levels in corn in excess of 20 ppb are prohibited in interstate transportation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Mature animals can tolerate small doses of aflatoxin while young animals can be highly susceptible to its effects according to Dr. Steven Nicholson, an Extension Service veterinarian with the LSU Ag Center.

Although the 20 ppb level has been established by the FDA for all foods, higher levels are allowed in certain cases up to a maximum of 300 ppb in feed for certain animals.

In order to improve the marketability of Louisiana corn, Commissioner Odom has received verbal approval from FDA to allow corn containing between 20ppb and 300ppb to be shipped to for use in feedlots.

"Fields of greatest concern should be those where yield potential has been reduced by lack of water during the critical growth stages," said Dr. Walter Morrison, an agronomy specialist with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. "In most cases, good-yielding corn fields that received adequate moisture are less of a threat."

LSU Ag Center personnel suggest that growers who have established or suspect the presence of aflatoxin can follow several recommendations to follow the problem.

"The fungus appears to begin to produce the toxin most rapidly when corn moisture falls below 20 percent," Morrison said. "Starting harvest at 22-25 percent moisture will help prevent the problem."

Morrison recommends farmers harvest low-yielding or drought-stressed spots or fields separately from their other good parts of their corn fields to minimize contamination of entire loads of corn.

"High moisture corn should be in a dryer or under aeration within four hours of harvest," he added. "Producers should dry corn in continuous-flow or batch dryers to 15 percent moisture," he said. "The higher the temperatures used in drying corn kill the fungus and stop the production of the toxin. Corn held for sale should be maintained at a moisture level of 12 percent or lower."

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RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, August 6, 1998.

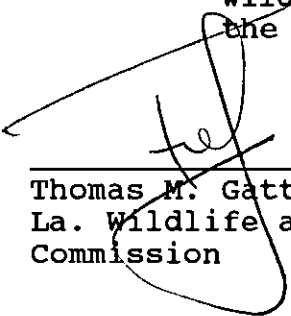
WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 1999 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

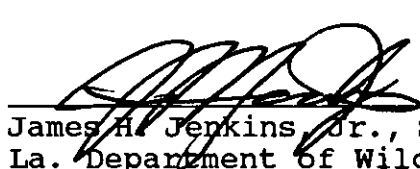
WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered all available biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby adopted as a Notice of Intent by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its August meeting does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of wild turkeys.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones

and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest

dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La.

126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Morganza, on the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlang to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National

Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B

April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake

Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C

March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south

of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the

hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements	Lottery Dates**
Bayou Macon	April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Bens Creek†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None

Big Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Bodcau	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Boeuf	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Camp Beauregard	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31
Fort Polk	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Georgia- Pacific	April 3-April 11	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Grassy Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Jackson- Bienville	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Little River	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18	Self-clearing	April 10-11 April 17-18
Pearl River	March 27-April 11	Self-clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Red River	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Sabine	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4
Sandy Hollow†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Sherburne	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31

Sicily Island	March 27-March 28	Self-clearing	March 27-28
	April 3-April 4		April 3-4
	April 10-April 11		April 10-11
Three Rivers	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 27-March 28	Self-clearing	March 27-28
	April 3-April 4		April 3-4
	April 10-April 11		April 10-11

*Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are CLOSED. For seasons on smaller lands managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contact the local district office.

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1999.

† No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

Kisatchie National Forest Turkey Hunting Schedule: Caney Ranger District, April 3-18; Winn Ranger District closed except Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, March 27-April 18; all other Kisatchie National Forest Districts, March 27-April 18.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the

Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondences to other agencies of government.

Additionally, interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until October 23, 1998 to Hugh A. Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

[illegible]

AREA "B" April 3 - 18

AREA "C" March 27 - April 4

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, August 6, 1998.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 1999 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered all available biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby adopted as a Notice of Intent by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its August meeting does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of wild turkeys.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones

and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest

dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaize structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La.

126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Morganza, on the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlang to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line
Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National

Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B

April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake

Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C

March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south

of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the

hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements	Lottery Dates**
Bayou Macon	April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Bens Creek†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None

Big Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Bodcau	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Boeuf	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Camp Beauregard	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31
Fort Polk	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Georgia- Pacific	April 3-April 11	Self-clearing	April 3-4
Grassy Lake	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Jackson- Bienville	April 3-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Little River	March 27-April 10	Self-clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18	Self-clearing	April 10-11 April 17-18
Pearl River	March 27-April 11	Self-clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 27-April 25	Self-clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Red River	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Sabine	March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 April 3-4
Sandy Hollow†	March 27-April 18	Self-clearing	None
Sherburne	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	March 27-28 March 29-31

Sicily Island	March 27-March 28	Self-clearing	March 27-28
	April 3-April 4		April 3-4
	April 10-April 11		April 10-11
Three Rivers	March 27-April 4	Self-clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 27-March 28	Self-clearing	March 27-28
	April 3-April 4		April 3-4
	April 10-April 11		April 10-11

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Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

[illegible]

AREA "B" April 3 - 18

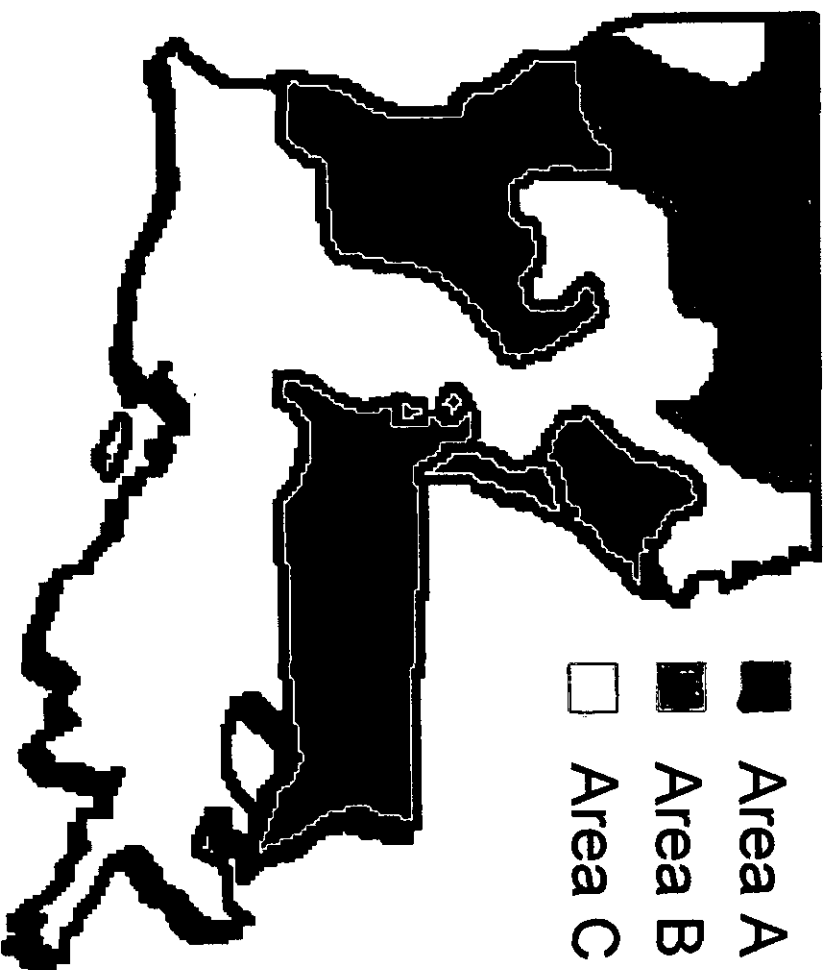
AREA "C" March 27 - April 4

Turkey Season

Recommendations

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries**

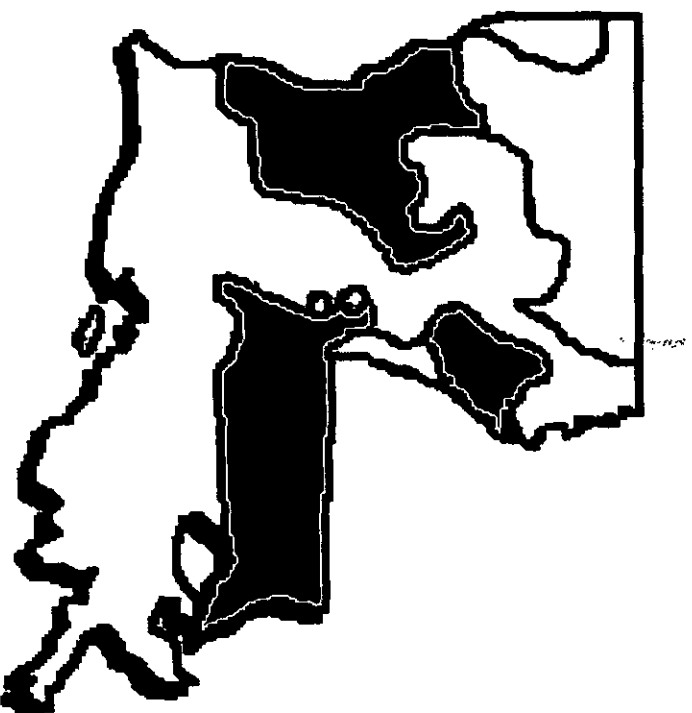
Turkey Areas



Area A Season Recommendations

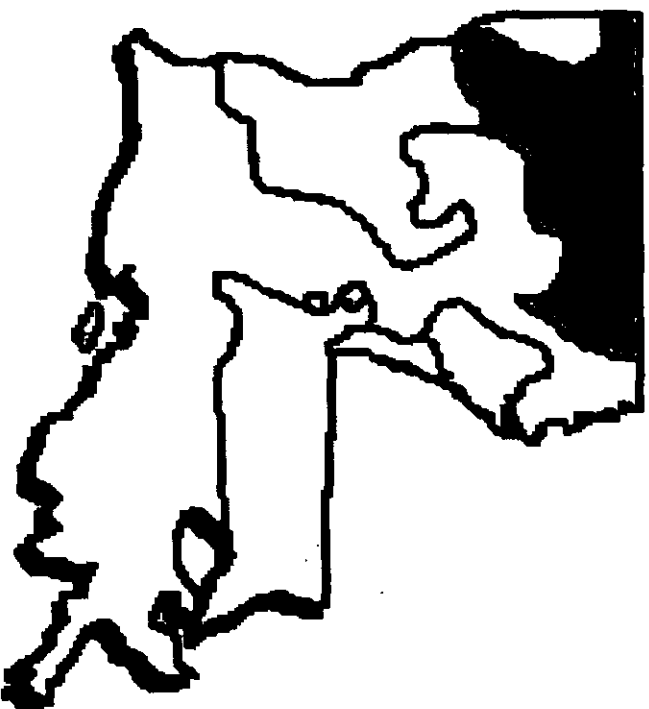
March 27 - April 25 (30 days)

Except KNF: March 27 - April 18 (23 days)



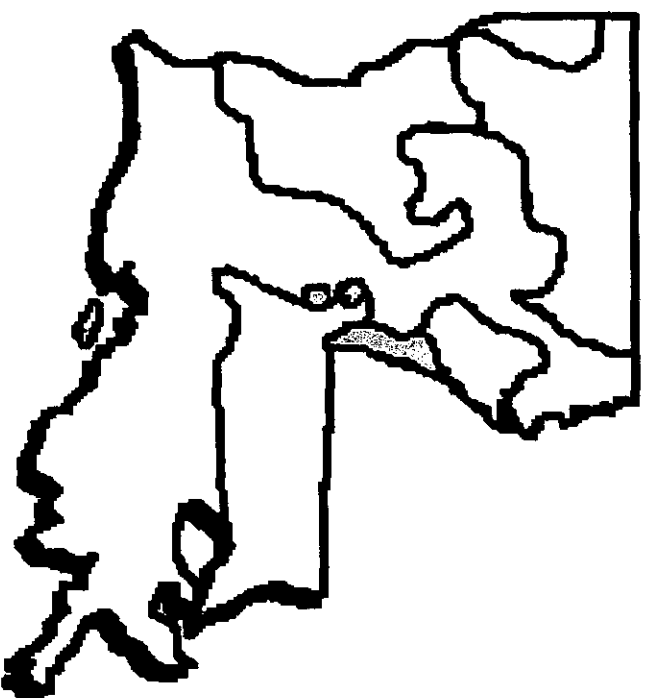
Area B Season Recommendations

April 3 - April 18 (16 days)



Area C Season Recommendations

March 27 - April 4 (9 days)



Wildlife Management Areas

- **24 WMAs are recommended to have seasons**
- **Seasons are unchanged except for adjustment for calendar and opening date changes to the seasons at large.**
- **8 WMAs have lotteries and all others are Mandatory Self Clearing.**

Bag Limit

- Bag Limit is 1 per day and 3 per season.
- Bag Limit is 1 per WMA, not to exceed 2 per all WMAs.

Significant Changes to Areas at Large

- Area A season is recommended to start 1 week later and to be reduced by 7 days (30-day season).
- Those portions of the Kisatchie National Forest within Area A have a season March 27 - April 18 (23-day season).
- Area B season is recommended to start 1 week earlier and no reduction in days (16-day season).
- An additional portion of southern Jackson Parish is recommended for opening with the Area B season.

Significant Changes to Areas at Large (Continued)

- Area C season is recommended to start 1 week later and no reduction in days (9-day season).
- A portion of St. Landry Parish is recommended to be opened and placed in Area C.

Significant Changes to Wildlife Management Areas

- Bayou Macon WMA is recommended to be added to the list of WMAs open for turkey hunting. A 2-day lottery hunt is proposed.

Reasons for the Recommended Changes to the Season Structure

- Concern for the Turkey Resource
- Following the guidance of prior Commissions and Department Secretaries to have seasons with the same opening dates

Turkey Resource Concerns

Background

- **Florida Parish Landowner Concerns in 1993**
 - **We could not document massive die-off but did find isolated cases of avian pox.**
 - **This occurred about the same time that timber harvest in the state exceeded growth.**
 - **We believe that a combination of timber activities, poor reproduction, disease, and reduced habitat quality were involved.**

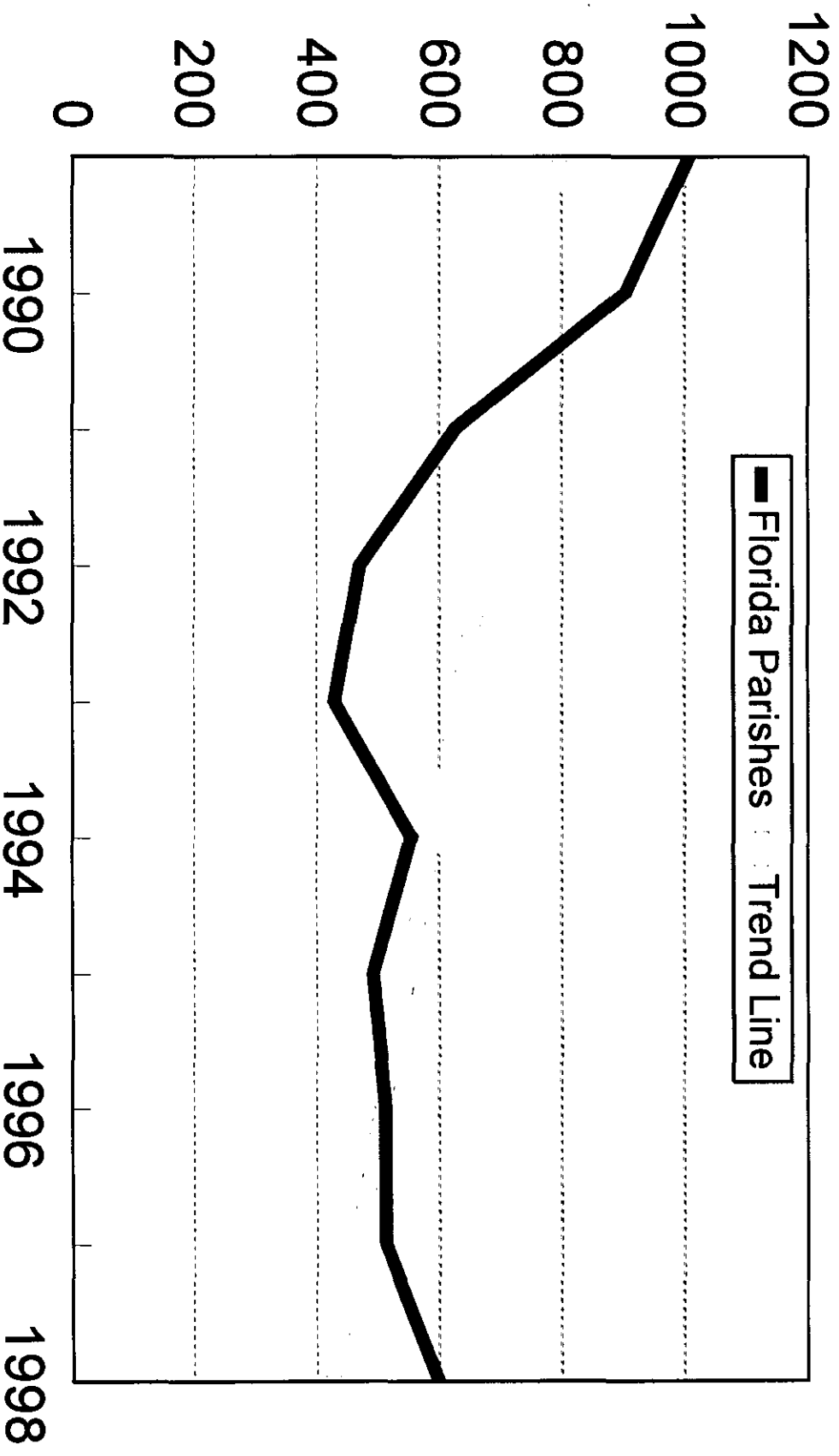
Turkey Resource Concerns Background

- Louisiana's Pine Experience

- In 1991, over 43 % of the pine acres were planted.
- From 1986 to 1993, over 50 thousand acres of croplands were planted to monoculture pine plantations at high densities under CRP. About 20 % of these acres were in the Florida Parishes.
- This excludes acres of pine planted Forestry and other Agriculture Incentives.
 - The Forest Productivity Program in combination with other Agricultural Programs now have in excess of \$3.5 million to plant trees--usually pine trees.

Turkey Resource Concerns Background

Gobblers Recorded At Voluntary Check Stations

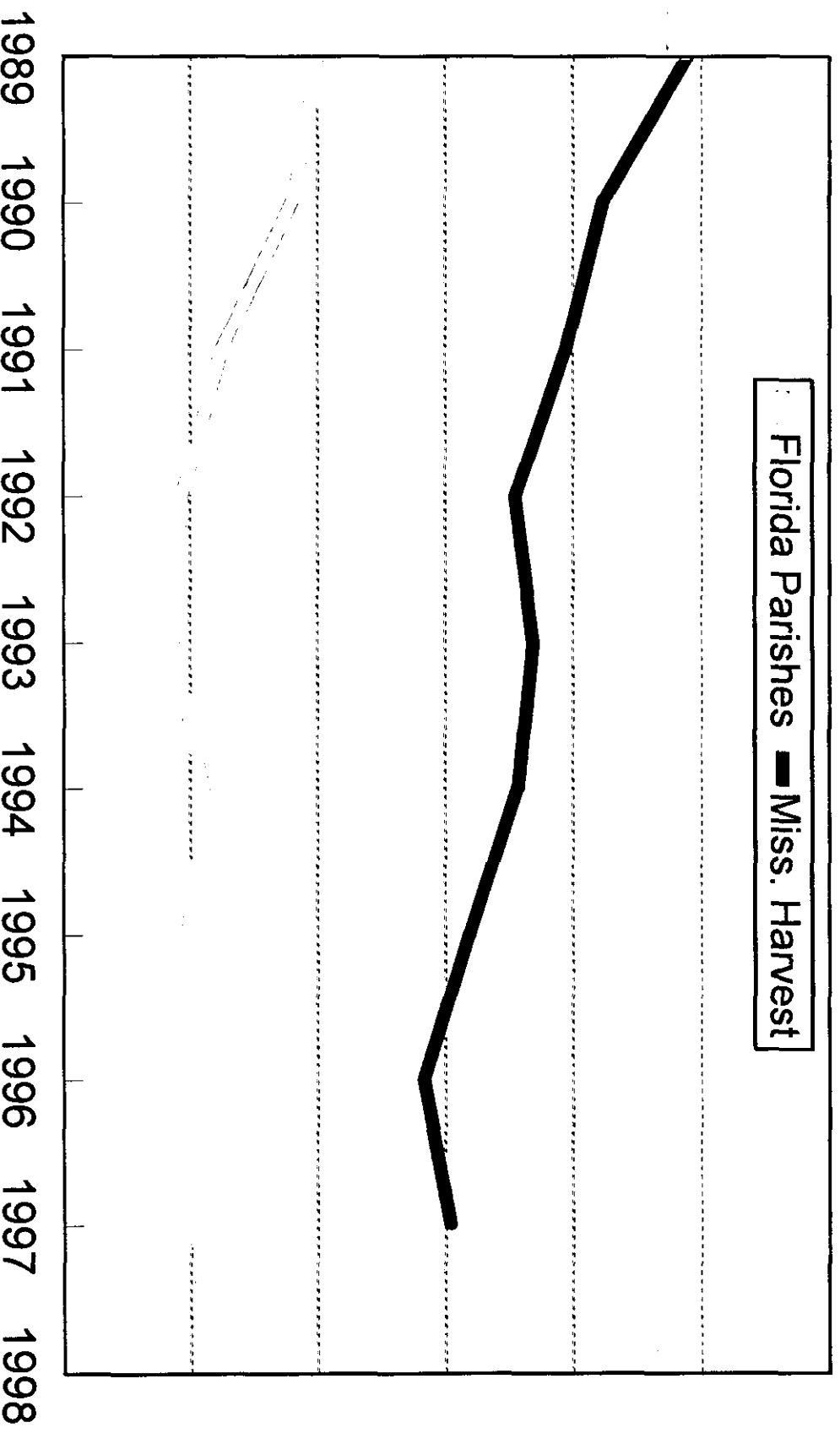


Turkey Resource Concerns Background



Turkey Resource Concerns Background

Gobblers Recorded At Voluntary Check Stations and Mississippi's Estimated Turkey Harvest Trends



Turkey Resource Concerns Background

Comparisons with Other Studies Hunting Morality (Direct Recovery)

• Our Study:	70%	Adu	(5 Yr. Study)
•	23%	Juv	
• Mississippi:	29%	Juv & Adu	(6 Yr. Average)
• Florida :	34%	Juv & Adu	(1 Yr. Study)
• Missouri:	12%	Juv	(15 Yr. Average)
•	19%	Adu	(15 Yr. Average)
•	17%	Adu	(7 Yr. Average)
• Kentucky:	32%	Adu	(7 Yr. Average)
•	11%	Juv	(7 Yr. Average)

What Do We Hope to Accomplish?

- Increase the adult (gobbling) segment of the population
- Stabilize the harvest
- Positions the Department where it may have a single opening date in the future

What Do Hunters Think?

Turkey Opinion Survey Results

- Attempted to mail to 100% of turkey stamp buyers--effective mailing size = 84% (6,845).
- Return rate of 43%.
- Area A had the greatest number of turkey hunters--68%.
- 61% of the hunters indicated that they hunted in the Florida Parishes.
- 48% of the hunters indicated that they hunted at least once on public lands.
- 63% of the respondents indicated that they preferred that the Kisatchie National Forest and other federal lands have shorter seasons similar to other Department WMAs.

Turkey Opinion Survey (cont.)

Do Hunters Support a Shorter Season in Area A?

- **73% of the hunters supported a shorter season if more gobbling were heard on average.**

Do Hunters Support Moving the Season Dates?

- **Area A: 75% preferred the current dates or earlier; however, 73% responded that later was OK if beneficial to the turkey.**
- **Area B: 50% preferred a season with dates earlier than the current one.**

Questions???

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY COUNCIL - LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Mississippi Flyway Waterfowl Enforcement Report 1997/1998			
VIOLATION TYPE	LOUISIANA	TOTAL *	WARNING
Use or possess toxic shot	120 ✓	513	97
Hunt before or after legal shooting hours	100 ✓	445	151
Shoot or possess over bag or possession limit	66	224	46
Baiting violations	20	124	33
Hunt waterfowl in the closed season	16	170	5
Hunt with unplugged shotgun	48	391	103
Hunt without license	28	181	58
Hunt without required stamp(s)	110 ✓	459	487
Shoot protected species	14	81	8
Fail to retrieve/ wanton waste	23	42	36
Illegal transportation or tagging	46	127	38
Hunt with oversize shot or illegal firearm	2	34	9
Hunt from motorboat/rallying/vehicle	45	113	43
Hunt in refuge or closed area		66	28
Other misc/special waterfowl regulations/geese (2) creeping/poss live MGB/hunt MGB-public road/poss duck other than teal during special teal (26) season/electronic callers (9)	48	449	390
Total Water fowl Violations	686	3419	1532
Related violations involving waterfowl hunters (boating, trespass, litter, vehicles, etc.)	notable to track	417	325
TOTAL VIOLATIONS - 17.8% for La.	686	3836	1857

* 11 states including Louisiana

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
JULY, 1998

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 61.0

185-Float - 70365
Hrs. - 43.7

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. -

Enforcement Hours - 98.4
Other Divisions - 6.3

Total Plane Use - 104.7 Hrs.

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

JULY 1998

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-JULY, 1998

REGION 1-MINDEN

PARISHES: WEBSTER, CLAIBORNE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, DESOTO, RED RIVER,
BIENVILLE

TOTAL CASES	91	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	1
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
41	Boating
12	Angling W/O A License
2	Fishing W/ O Non-Resident License
29	Fishing W/O Resident Cane Pole License
1	Take Game Fish Illegal Methods
1	Take Overlimit Of Freshwater Game Fish
2	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Not Abiding By Commission Rules & Regulations
1	Caddo Lake (Yo-Yo Regulations)
1	Not Abiding By R&R On WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
nine striped bass donated to charity, 1 hybrid striped bass, 1 largemouth bass, 2 white bass, 2 black bass.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
41	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
49	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
1	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
1	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
1	Bodcau WMA

REGION 2 - MONROE

**PARISHES: E. CARROLL, W. CARROLL,
JACKSON, LINCOLN, MOREHOUSE,
OUACHITA, RICHLAND, UNION**

TOTAL CASES	95	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	3
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Overloading of Motorboat
1	Improperly Riding On Deck Or Gunwales
4	No Observer In Watercraft While Skiing
1	No Boat Numbers
8	No Boat Registration Certificate In Possession
2	Operate Unregistered Motorboat
1	Failure To Display Valid Decal
2	Expired Boat Registration
4	Improper Running Lights
8	Failure To Comply With PFD Requirements
4	Failure To Have PFD On Person Under 13 While Underway
4	Careless Operation Of Watercraft
1	Reckless Operation Of Watercraft
1	Failure To Comply With Accident Procedures
2	Failure To File Accident Report
1	Operate Personal Watercraft At Night
1	Sell Commercial Fish Without License
1	Sell Fish Caught Recreationally
14	Angle Without A License
1	DWI-Boating
5	Operate ATV On Pubic Road
8	Illegal Possession Of Alcoholic Beverages

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
11	Littering
2	Violate Rules & Regulations On WMA
1	Illegal Possession Of Stolen Things
1	Negligent Injury
1	Operate Vehicle On Levee Right-Of-Way
1	Driving With Out Operator's License
3	Possession Of Marijuana

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 Ruger Black Hawk .357, 1 .22 caliber gun, 2 bags of marijuana.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION- 2

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
46	Boating
2	Commercial Fishing
-0-	Federal Migratory
11	Littering
20	Miscellaneous
14	Recreational Fishing
-0-	State Hunting/Trapping
2	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
20	Public Assistance (15 Assisted Stranded Boaters, 5 Stranded Motorists)

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
3	Russell Sage

REGION 3 - PINEVILLE**PARISHES: RAPIDES, WINN, NATCHITOCHES,
SABINE, GRANT, VERNON,
AVOYELLES**

TOTAL CASES	132	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	20
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
11	No Observer In Watercraft While Skiing
14	Failure To Comply W/ PFD Requirements
7	Failure To Have PFD On Person Under 13 While Underway
6	Improper Running Lights
1	Careless Operation While Water-Skiing
10	Littering
2	Careless Operation Of A Watercraft
3	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations On WMA
43	Angling W/O A License
2	Failure To Display Valid Decals
5	Expire Boat Registration Certificate
1	No Boat Registration Certificate In Possession
3	Improper Riding On Deck or Gunwales
1	No Boat Numbers
1	Possess Gamefish Illegally
1	Operation ATV On Public Road
5	Criminal Trespass On State Property
6	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License In Possession
1	Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Possess Over Limit Freshwater Gamefish (Black Bass)
1	Possess Rabbit Close Season

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
55	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
10	Littering
7	Miscellaneous
54	Recreational Fishing
3	State Hunting/Trapping
3	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
2	Alexandria State Forest
1	Camp Beauregard
7	Spring Bayou
4	Indian Creek
2	Grassy Lake
4	Little River

**PARISHES: CALDWELL, CATAHOULA,
CONCORDIA, LASALLE, FRANKLIN
MADISON, & TENSAS**

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
45	Boating
55	Angling W/O A License
1	Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee
3	Not Abiding by Rules & Regulations On WMA
5	Littering

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
5---hoop nets with leads, 27' Scarab Boat with inboard motor & trailer.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
45	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
5	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
55	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
3	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
14	Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area

**REGION 5 – LAKE CHARLES PARISHES: ACADIA, ALLEN, BEAUREGARD
CALCASIEU, CAMERON, EVANGELINE
JEFF DAVIS AND VERMILION**

TOTAL CASES	301	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	70
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
106	Boating
1	Allow Another To Use Recreational License
43	Angling W/O A License
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
7	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
5	Take/Poss. Undersize Red Drum
1	Take/Poss. Undersize Sea Trout
4	Take/Poss. Undersize Black Drum
2	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulation Of Refuge
2	Obtain License Or Engage In Activity During Revocation
1	Take And Sell Commercial Fish Without Commercial License
2	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License
1	Take/Possession Of Commercial Fish Without Commercial Vess.Lic.
2	Sell And/Or Buy Seafood Without Wholesale/Retail Dealers Lic.
1	Failure To Maintain Records
1	Transport Seafood Without Required License
3	Take Game Fish Illegally
11	Failure To Mark Crab Container
3	Possess And/Or Sell Undersize Crabs
6	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
2	Take Alligators Without A License
6	Take Alligators Closed Season

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
47	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations Of Refuge
1	Resisting Arrest
8	Illegal Possession Of Marijuana
13	Littering
16	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries Violation
3	Flight From An Officer
1	Driving Without An Operator's License
1	Possession Of Stolen Things

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
3 empty littering containers, 1 resident fishing license, 1 resident saltwater fishing license, 38 glass containers of alcohol beverages, 1 outboard motor, 1-14 foot aluminum boat, 1-40 h.p. mariner, 1 homemade boat trailer, 7 marijuana cigarettes, 1 roach clip, 4 vicodin pills, 2 packages of Marlboro Lights, 14 undersize red drum, 2 undersize spotted sea trout, 10 undersize black drum, 7 channel catfish, 1 flounder, 10 red snapper, 2 cobia, 1 ice chest, 1 alligator head and skin, 10 lbs. of alligator meat, 4 alligators , 19 receipt tags, 764 lbs. of crabs returned to water, 59 ½ dozen crabs returned to water, 24 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$36.00.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
106	Boating
31	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
13	Littering
30	Miscellaneous
66	Recreational Fishing
8	State Hunting/Trapping
47	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
60	Rockefeller Refuge
1	Marsh Island
1	West Bay
2	State Wildlife
6	Sabine Island

REGION 6 - OPELOUSAS**PARISHES: ST. LANDRY, LAFAYETTE,
POINTE COUPEE, WEST
BATON ROUGE, IBERVILLE,
ST. MARTIN AND IBERIA**

TOTAL CASES	193	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	18
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
97	Boating
62	Angling W/O A License
6	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
8	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
6	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
2	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License
1	Take/Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Illegal Possession Of Gamefish
1	Hunt Rabbits Closed Season
1	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
1	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations
4	Littering
1	Filing False Public Records

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
12 bass, 93 sac-a-lait, 12 bream.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
97	Boating
5	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
4	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
83	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
1	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE - 0

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
18	Sherburne Wildlife Management Area

REGION 7-BATON ROUGE**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E. BATON ROUGE,
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON,
TANGIPAHOA, ST. HELENA,
ST. TAMMANY, WASHINGTON,
W. FELICIANA**

TOTAL CASES	256	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	23
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
144	Boating 9 D.W.I.'S
71	Angling W/O A License
6	Poss. Of Firearm While Frogging
1	Fish Without Pole License
2	Fish Without Comm. Lic.
1	Fish Without Comm. Gear Lic.
11	Fish Without Non Resident Lic.
1	Collect Rep./Amph. Without Basic Fishing License
1	Public Intimidation Of Public Official
1	Take Comm. Fish Without Comm. Lic.
2	Take Comm. Fish Without Comm. Gear Lic.
2	Take Comm. Fish Without Vessel Lic.
3	Littering
1	Resisting Arrest
1	Disturbing The peace
1	Poss. Illegally Taken Deer C/S
1	Ill. Poss. Of Alligator Or Their Skins
3	Take Undersize Speckled Trout
1	Fail To Comply W/Scenic Rivers
2	Sell Shrimp Without Wholesale Retail Dealers Lic.

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
9-speckled trout

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION # 7

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
144	Boating 9 D. W. I. 's
10	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
3	Littering
11	Miscellaneous
87	Recreational Fishing
1	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
23	Pearl River W. M. A.

**REGION 8 – NEW ORLEANS PARISHES: ST. BERNARD, JEFFERSON,
PLAQUEMINES, ST. CHARLES, ORLEANS**

TOTAL CASES	367	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	41

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
68	Boating
78	Angling W/O A License
20	Angle W/O A Non-Resident License
2	Use Gear W/O A Recreational Gear License
5	Angle W/O A Saltwater License
7	Angle W/O A Non-Resident Saltwater License
1	Violate Special Fishing Tournament Regulations
10	Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally (Bass With A Cast Net)
2	Take Or Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum
4	Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum In Excess Of 27"
3	Take/Possess Undersized Red Drum
4	Take/Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout
4	Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum
1	Fail To Comply With Charter Boat Regulations
4	Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial License
2	Com. Fisherman Sell To Other Than A Licd. Whsl./Rtl. Seafood Dealer
5	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
6	Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License
1	Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
1	Fail To Comply With Federal Law In EEZ (Possess Red Drum)
1	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
2	Destroy Crab Traps Or Remove Contents

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Allow Another To Use Commercial License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Gear License
1	Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate Commercial Vessel
1	Permit Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear
1	Theft Of Crab Trap
2	Possess Over Twenty Percent Of Undersized Crabs
2	Fail To Comply With Shark Permit And Report Rules
51	Violation Of Mullet Regulations
2	Trawling In Inside Waters In Closed Season
3	Trawling In Inside Waters With Oversized Double Rigs
7	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
24	Butterfly In Restricted Area
4	Failure To Have Written Permission
1	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease
1	Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester's License
1	Violation Of Sanitary Code-Ch. 9-(Fail To Refrigerate Properly)
1	Violation Of Sanitary Code-Ch.9(Vessel Regulations)
2	Obtain License By Fraud
3	Take Alligators W/O A License
5	Take/Possess Alligators During Closed Season
2	Illegal Possession Of Alligators Or Their Skins
2	Possession Of Live Alligators W/O A Permit
3	Littering
8	Operation Of A Watercraft While Intoxicated
2	Reckless Operation Of A Watercraft
5	Other

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
22-butterfly nets, 10 skimmer nets, 3 trawl nets, 2 crab traps, 2 boats, 2 trailers, 1 basic fishing license, 1 saltwater license, 1 log book, 1 alligator hide
seafood donated: catfish-25 lbs.-red drum-24 -flounder-2-sheepshead-1-spotted sea trout-16-black drum-10-white bass-4-stripped bass-4.
seafood returned to water: red drum-2-crabs-120 lbs.- alligators-1-oysters-58 sacks
seafood destroyed: spotted sea trout-19-red drum-1-alligator-1
seafood sold: 2,515 pounds of shrimp sold for \$4,002.60

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
68	Boating
128	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
3	Littering
15	Miscellaneous
141	Recreational Fishing
12	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
6	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
17	Pass-a-Loutre
4	Salvador
20	Biloxi
	Time On Areas:
	30 Hrs.-Salvador, 75 Hrs.-Biloxi
	31 Hrs.-Pass-a-Loutre

SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT
REGION 8 ENFORCEMENT

MONTH OF JULY 1998

COMPLAINTS

1. We had a very active time with shrimpers this month, but less activity than last month since Zone 2 is closed. This shrimp season was much better than the past few years, and participation was high. Complaints were mainly about the use of oversized nets. We also addressed many complaints of night butterflying in the Industrial Canal.

2. PATROLS

Directed shrimp patrols were scheduled to address complaints and agents observations. Regular saltwater patrols by boat have been continued. The plane was used to make many patrols. Compliance with net size and mesh restrictions, particularly in the commercial sector with double rig vessels, has been high. Very successful directed operations were done in the Industrial Canal resulting in several cases.

3. INQUIRIES

1. We received numerous inquiries for TED and BRD information, which were referred to the LSU Cooperative Extension Service Fisheries Agent Gerald Horst.
2. We received quite a few calls regarding Breton and Chandeleur Sounds and the new law regarding trawl size in outside waters, and mesh size for inside waters. With the announcement for the closure of Zone 2 on Tuesday June 30 at 6 a.m., and the closure of most of Zone 1 on July 27 at 6 a.m., the phones rang constantly with inquiries about the closing and about what would remain open. We are also receiving inquiries about when inside waters will open.

CASES - TOTALS - 44 CASES

SEIZURES: 35 NETS SEIZED/ 2515# SHRIMP SEIZED/ \$4,002.60

3 - OPERATE W/O COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN LICENSE
2 - OPERATE W/O COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE
3 - OPERATE W/O COMMERCIAL VESSEL LICENSE
2 - TRAWL INSIDE WATERS CLOSED SEASON
7 - USE SKIMMERS INSIDE WATERS CLOSED SEASON
24 - SHRIMP IN RESTRICTED AREA - INDUSTRIAL CANAL
3 - TRAWL INSIDE WATERS WITH OVERSIZED DOUBLE RIGS
SUBMITTED TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CLYDE KIMBAL BY CAPTAIN SANDY DARES

REGION 9 - THIBODAUX

**PARISHES: ST. MARY, ST. JAMES, ST. JOHN,
TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE,
ASSUMPTION, GRAND ISLE,
LOWER ST. MARTIN**

TOTAL CASES	281	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	60
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
132	Boating
26	Angling W/O A License
10	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
4	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
11	Angling W/O Saltwater License
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License Non-Resident
2	Taking Over Limit Freshwater Gamefish (Bass)
2	Take O/L Of Red Drum (On Water)
2	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
3	Take Undersized Red Drum
11	Take Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec)
3	Take Undersized Black Drum (Rec)
1	Fail To Comply W/Charter Boat Regulation
2	Fail To Have Commercial License In Poss.
4	Take Commercial Fish
4	Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic. (Trawls and Skimmers)
3	Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
2	Sell Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail License
6	Possess Crabs In Berry Stage
1	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
1	Fail To Remove Unserviceable Traps
5	Violate Crab Trap Escape Ring Requirements

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Allow Another To Use Commercial License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Vessel License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Gear License
1	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
6	Trawling In Closed Season (Inside Waters)
2	Butterflying In Closed Season
2	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
2	Use Four Trawls In Two Trawl Area
4	Failure To Have Written Permission
5	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease
3	Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel
1	Failure To Tag Sacked Oysters
2	Harvest Oysters From Unmarked Lease
1	Taking Alligators Closed Season
1	Collect Rept./Amphib. Rec. W/O Basic Fishing License
5	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated
2	Littering
4	Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9
1	Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9 (Vessel Regs)

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
24 lg. mouth bass, 3 black bass, 25 lbs. shrimp, 1072 lbs. shrimp sold for \$1394, 8 black drum, 71 speckle trout, 77 sacks oysters, 22 red drum, 400 lbs. crabs, 114 berry-stage crabs, 1 alligator, 7 crab traps, 5 skimmer nets, 5 trawls, 2 butterfly nets, 1 ice chest, 1 commercial license, 1 gear license, 1 vessel license, 1 driver's license
1 deer-road kill-donated to charity

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
132	Boating
59	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
10	Miscellaneous
76	Recreational Fishing
1	Alligator
1	Reptile & Amphibian

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
9	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
33	Pointe Aux Chenes
11	Atchafalaya Delta
16	Manchac
	Time Spent On Management Area:
	120 Hrs Atchafalaya Delta
	24 Hrs Pointe Aux Chenes

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE – COASTAL

TOTAL CASES	42	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Boating
1	Failure To Tag Oysters Prior To Leaving Vessel
4	Failure To Have Written Permission To Take Oysters
4	Take Oysters From An Unmarked Lease
11	Unlawfully Take Oysters From A Private Lease
1	Failure To Refrigerate Within 30 Minutes (Chap. 9-Sanitary Code)
6	Failure To Complete Harvester Log Book (Chap. 9-Sanitary Code)
1	Failure To Tag Prior To Leaving Harvesting Area(Ch.9-Sanitary Code)
1	Take Undersize Red Drum
1	Take Overlimit Red Drum
6	Angling W/O A License
2	Angling W/O A Saltwater License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
10 red drum, 122 sacks of oysters, 3 oyster dredges

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Boating
28	Commercial Fishing
10	Sport Fishing

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	

SPECIAL SEAFOOD INVESTIGATION UNIT - STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	45	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
7	Boating
9	Angling W/O A License
1	Angle W/O A License (Non-Resident)
5	Angling W/O Saltwater License
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License (Non-Resident)
6	Operate Watercraft While Intoxicated
1	Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout
1	Possess Undersize Red Drum
1	Possess Overlimit Red Drum
3	Buy/Sell Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
5	Violate Mullet Regulations "Reporting"
1	Fail To Maintain Records On Reptiles/Amphibians
1	Sale Reptiles/Amphibians W/O Collector's License
3	Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
5 spotted sea trout, 6 red drum	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Boating
8	Commercial Fishing
19	Sport Fishing
5	Miscellaneous
6	DUI

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES.

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	

SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE - STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	83	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	8
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
29	Boating
18	Angling W/O A License
4	Angle W/O A License (Non-Resident)
2	Fishing W/O Resident Pole License
3	Angling W/O Saltwater License
2	Angling W/O Saltwater License (Non-Resident)
1	Take/Possess Overlimit Or Undersize Freshwater Game Fish
5	Take/Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)
1	Not Abiding By Commission Rules Finfish (Rec.)
2	Fail To Comply With Charter Boat Regulations
2	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
3	Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Fail To Remove Unserviceable Traps
1	Violate Crab Trap Escape Ring Requirements
1	Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate Commercial Vessel
1	Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate And Use Commercial Gear
1	Possess Over 20 Percent Undersize Crabs
2	Trawling In Closed Season (Inside Waters)
2	Operating Boat While Intoxicated
1	Littering
1	Obtain License By Fraud

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
87-spotted sea trout, 1-black drum, 1-crate undersize crabs, 1-large mouth bass, 5-striped bass, 1-hybrid bass, 2-skimmer nets, 2-32' trawls, 3-crab traps, 1-ice chest

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
29	Boating
12	Commercial Fishing
38	Sport Fishing
4	Miscellaneous

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
8	Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA

S.W.E.P. – PATROL COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	32	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	0
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Boating
2	Angling W/O A License (Non-Resident)
2	Take/Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)
2	Possess Overlimit Of Red Drum In Excess of 27" (Rec.)
4	Possess Undersize Red Drum
3	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
4	Trawling Closed Season
1	Fail To Comply With Charter Boat Regulation
7	Operate Vehicle While Intoxicated
2	Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
29 red drum, 450 lbs. Of shrimp sold, 2 trawls, 2 skimmer nets

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Boating
7	Commercial Fishing
10	Sport Fishing
2	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
7	DUI

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	

SPECIAL NOTE: TOTAL ENGINE HOURS: 90
TOTAL BOATS CHECKED: 500

TOTAL CASES WMA & REFUGES- 250

TOTAL CASES - 1,825

RULE

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts a rule prohibiting commercial netting in the John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§185. Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the possession and/or use of commercial nets, including, but not limited to, gill nets, trammel nets, flagg nets, hoop nets, wire nets and fish seines in John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir located in Red River Parish.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

**1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available; and

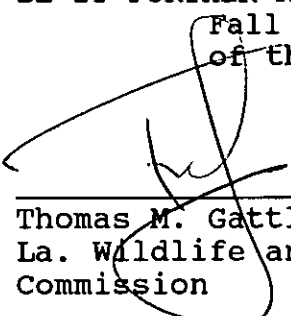
WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count; and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in all inshore shrimp zones will average 100 count minimum size or larger by mid-August; now


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open statewide at official sunrise August 17, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season is attached to and made a part of this resolution.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the Mississippi State line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, and

Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, and

Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inshore waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Texas State Line,
all to open at official sunrise August 17, 1998.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m. March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the

closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count; and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in all inshore shrimp zones will average 100 count minimum size or larger by mid-August; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open statewide at official sunrise August 17, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season to open as follows:

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all to open at official sunrise August 17, 1998.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 1998 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season at official sunset Monday, December 21, 1998 except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds in Zone 1, as described in R.S. 56:495.1 A.(2), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m. March 31, 1999. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the

closing date if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

Hawkins, Susan

From: Abbott, Janet
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 1998 3:57 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Subject: Fall Shrimp Season

I'm attaching the copies we discussed that have been approved by Karen and Claude. As you know, Mark not here. We will have him look at them tomorrow. After that we will have Zero look at them on Thursday.



OpenFall1998

janet

\m/ (^_^) \m/

Janet W. Abbott
Marine Fisheries Division
LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000 (2000 Quail Drive)
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 (B.R., LA 70808)
abbott_jw@wlf.state.la.us

RESOLUTION

1998/99 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 1998
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be opened on the Wednesday following Labor Day which in 1998 is September 9, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Oyster Seed Reservation" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, Act #46 of the 1992 Legislative Session changed R.S. 56:433B to mandate a sacking area only on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Bay Gardene, Hackberry Bay, and Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservations not currently under lease will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from one-half hour before sunrise October 5, 1998 to one-half hour after sunset October 16, 1998, and

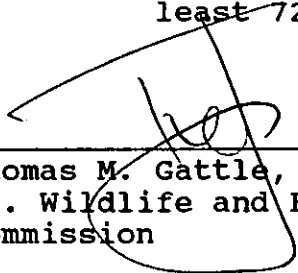
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary will also have the authority to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the season for Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1998 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

1. The Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease, Bay Junop, Bay Gardene Oyster and Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservations will open one-half hour before sunrise September 9, 1998.

2. The Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from October 5 to October 16, 1998.

3. A designated sacking only area east of the Mississippi River will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998. The sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

4. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads.

5. The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource subsides.

6. The Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1998 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1999.

7. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION.

1998/99 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 1998
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be opened on the Wednesday following Labor Day which in 1998 is September 9, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds and Oyster Seed Reservation" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, Act #46 of the 1992 Legislative Session changed R.S. 56:433B to mandate a sacking area only on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Bay Gardene, Hackberry Bay, and Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservations not currently under lease will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from one-half hour before sunrise October 5, 1998 to one-half hour after sunset October 16, 1998, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary will also have the authority to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

1. The Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease, Bay Junop, Bay Gardene Oyster and Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservations will open one-half hour before sunrise September 9, 1998.

2. The Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will be open for 12 days only from October 5 to October 16, 1998.

3. A designated sacking only area east of the Mississippi River will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 9, 1998. The sacking only area of the public grounds is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Pt. to Pt. Gardner to Grace Pt. at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

4. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads.

5. The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource subsides.

6. The Calcasieu and Sabine Lake tonging areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 16, 1998 and remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 1999.

7. Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.201) implementing dealer receipt forms, and repeal a Rule (LAC 76:VII.203) implementing the commercial fisherman's sales report form. Authority for adoption of the Rule is included in R.S. 56:303.7(B), 56:306.4(E) and 56:345.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 2. General Provisions

§201. Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card; Dealer Receipt Form-Design and Use

A. The "Commercial Fisherman's Sales Card" shall be provided by the Department in lieu of the commercial fisherman's license. The card will be embossed with the following information:

1. Commercial fisherman's name;
2. Commercial license number;
3. Commercial fisherman's social security number;
4. Expiration date;
5. Residency status.

B. The card shall be presented by the commercial fisherman to the dealer at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

C. The dealer receipt form shall be a three-part numbered form provided by the Department. The dealer receipt form shall be completed when fish are purchased or received from commercial

fishermen. The receipt form shall represent the actual transaction between the commercial fisherman and the dealer. The dealer shall fill out the receipt form in its entirety containing all of the information required in §201.D and E with the exception of the commercial fisherman's signature that shall be recorded by the fisherman. The "Dealer's Copy" of the receipt shall be maintained on file at the dealer's place of business or where the fish are received. The dealer shall maintain the receipts for a period of 3 years. The "Department Copy" portion of the dealer receipt form shall be returned to the Department by the dealer by the tenth of each month to include purchases made during the previous month. Along with the receipts for each month, the dealer shall submit a "Monthly Submission Sheet" provided by the Department that certifies that the transactions submitted represent all of the transactions by that dealer from commercial fishermen for that particular month. The "Monthly Submission Sheet" shall fulfill the reporting requirements in R.S. 56:345. The dealer shall mail completed receipt forms to a pre-determined address designated by the Department. Dealers are responsible for obtaining dealer receipt forms from the Department by calling a pre-determined phone number.

D. The commercial fisherman is responsible for providing the following information to the dealer at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

1. Commercial fisherman's name;
2. Commercial fisherman's license number;
3. Information on commercial gear used;

4. Information on vessel used;
5. Information on location fished;
6. Permit numbers for species requiring a permit to harvest;
7. Commercial fisherman's signature;
8. Duration of trip.

E. The dealer is responsible for recording on the dealer receipt form that information provided by the commercial fisherman in §201.D and is responsible for the following information at the time of sale or transfer of possession of the catch.

1. Dealer's name;
2. Dealer's license number;
3. Commercial fisherman's name;
4. Commercial fisherman's license number;
5. Species purchased;
6. Quantity and units of each species purchased;
7. Size and condition of each species purchased;
8. Transaction date;
9. Unit price of each species purchased;
10. Dealer's signature;
11. Permit numbers for species requiring a permit to harvest;
12. Commercial fisherman's signature.

F. Dealers may designate an agent to sign the dealer receipt form for them however, in all cases the dealer shall remain responsible for the actions of their agent.

G. All records and receipt forms shall be available and

produced upon demand to any duly authorized agent of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division or department auditor.

H. Effective date of §201.A and B is upon publication in the Louisiana Register. Effective date for §201.C-G will be January 1, 1999.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:303.7(B), 56:306.4(E) and 56:345.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 18:81 (January 1992), repromulgated LR 18:198 (February 1992), amended LR 20:323 (March 1994), amended by the Office of Fisheries, LR 21:477 (May 1995), LR 22:373 (May 1996), amended by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (August 1998).

§203. Commercial Fisherman's Sales Report Form

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:345(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 18:82 (January 1992), repromulgated LR 18:198 (February 1992), amended LR 20:323 (March 1994), amended by the Office of Fisheries, LR 21:477 (May 1995), LR 22:373 (May 1996), repealed by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (August 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

BILLFISH HARVEST RULES

WHEREAS, The billfish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are primarily managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and

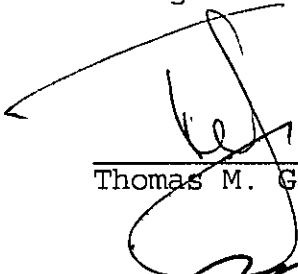
WHEREAS, NMFS has adopted size limits and permit regulations for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and


WHEREAS, adoption of compatible regulations for Louisiana state waters would enhance effectiveness and enforceability of the regulations already in place for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, R.S.56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set possession limits, quotas, places, seasons, times, size limits, and daily take limits based upon biological and technical data limits for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to provide for size limits, bag limits, permit regulations, and a framework for seasonal closures for billfishes in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.


Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman


James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

RESOLUTION

BILLFISH HARVEST RULES

- WHEREAS, The billfish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana are primarily managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and
- WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS, NMFS has adopted size limits and permit regulations for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and
- WHEREAS, adoption of compatible regulations for Louisiana state waters would enhance effectiveness and enforceability of the regulations already in place for billfishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set possession limits, quotas, places, seasons, times, size limits, and daily take limits based upon biological and technical data limits for saltwater finfish,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby promulgates a Notice of Intent to provide for size limits, bag limits, permit regulations, and a framework for seasonal closures for billfishes in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate a rule (LAC 76:VII.355) providing for regulations on the harvest of billfishes, including marlins, sailfish and swordfish. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S.56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§355. Harvest Regulations - Billfishes

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of billfishes including marlins, sailfish and swordfish within and without Louisiana's territorial waters. For purposes of this Section, the following words and phrases have the meaning ascribed to them in this subsection, unless the context clearly shows a different meaning:

Carcass Length: curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.

Dressed Weight: the weight of the carcass after it has been gutted, headed, and finned.

Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL): straight-line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.

Trip: a fishing trip, regardless of the number of days duration, that begins with departure from a dock, berth, beach,

seawall or ramp and that terminates with return to a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp.

B. Minimum Size Limits: No person shall possess any fish smaller than the minimum size limit.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>
1. Blue Marlin	96 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
2. White Marlin	66 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
3. Sailfish	57 inches Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)
4. Swordfish	29 inches carcass length or 33 pounds dressed weight

C. Recreational Creel Limit: Recreational fishing vessels shall not possess more than five swordfish per vessel per trip. Swordfish taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered, or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged or bartered.

D. Gamefish: Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 56 §327(A)(1)(b)(i) designates sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*), blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), black marlin (*Makaira indica*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), hatchet marlin (*Tetrapturus* spp.), and white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) as saltwater gamefish. This rule does not affect the designation of gamefish status, which is retained by the legislature (R.S. 56:6(25)(a)). Vessels engaged in commercial fishing shall not possess any of these species.

E. Permits

1. Recreational: Tournament operators: A person conducting a tournament involving scorekeeping or awards for Atlantic billfish (whether or not retained), must register with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

2. Commercial - Swordfish:

a. The owner of a vessel of the United States or a vessel that fishes for or possesses swordfish, or takes swordfish as incidental catch, regardless of whether retained, must possess a valid commercial permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish. This permit must be aboard the vessel and available for inspection by agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division. The captain of the vessel is also responsible to ensure the validity and possession of the permit aboard the vessel before retaining, possessing, selling or attempting to sell swordfish.

b. A Wholesale/Retail dealer who first receives swordfish must have been issued a valid dealer permit under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish. This dealer permit must be in possession of the Wholesale/Retail dealer and available for inspection by agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division.

F. All persons fishing for swordfish, or persons receiving any swordfish from fishermen, who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Swordfish shall not sell, barter,

trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any swordfish, or possess any swordfish in excess of a recreational creel limit.

G. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessels on state or federal waters.

H. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any swordfish in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial permit was issued.

I. Seasonal Closures. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close any recreational or commercial fishery for ~~funas~~ marlins, or swordfish, within and without Louisiana's territorial waters, when the Secretary is notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that the seasonal quota for that species and fishery has been met. The closure order shall close the fishery until the date projected for the re-opening of that fishery in the adjacent Federal waters. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to modify any such closure order to maintain consistency with re-opening dates in the adjacent Federal waters, should the Federal closure dates be modified.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and

the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to October 1, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

State of Louisiana



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** Louisianians are blessed with an abundance and diversity of game, fish, and seafood that hunters, fishers and commercial industries have long appreciated and recognized the need to conserve; and
- WHEREAS** revenues raised by sportsmen and commercial industries have successfully returned some animal species that faced extinction or were threatened or endangered by environmental conditions often imposed by people to healthy populations; and
- WHEREAS** hunters and anglers have a long history of contributing to conservation efforts statewide and nationwide, contributing more than \$12 billion to conservation programs during the past half a century through license fees and self-imposed excise taxes; and
- WHEREAS** a recent survey by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that 56 percent of all Louisianians participate in some type of fish or wildlife-related activity; and
- WHEREAS** latest figures indicate that the total economic impact of wildlife-related activities, including hunting and non-consumptive usage, in Louisiana is more than \$1 billion and that Louisianians directly spend \$656 million on hunting and other wildlife-associated recreation; and
- WHEREAS** Louisiana residents have spent an \$29.4 million on fishing and hunting licenses during the last three years; and
- WHEREAS** the state's warm Gulf waters and fertile estuarine systems are home to more than 100 commercially valuable seafood species, making Louisiana's marine fisheries one of the most important in the nation with more than 1.4 billion pounds landed annually for a dockside value of approximately \$306 million, with more than 150,000 people directly and indirectly employed in harvesting, processing wholesaling, and distribution of Louisiana seafood;
- THEREFORE,** I THOMAS M. GATTLE JR., Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, State of Louisiana, on the 6th day of August 1998, hereby proclaim Saturday, September 26, 1998 as the

14th ANNUAL LOUISIANA NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

throughout the state of Louisiana in recognition of the economic contributions of the hunting and fishing industry and in acknowledgement of the sport enjoyed by so many of our citizens.




Thomas M. Gattle Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

State of Louisiana



PROCLAMATION

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

- WHEREAS Louisianians are blessed with an abundance and diversity of game, fish, and seafood that hunters, fishers and commercial industries have long appreciated and recognized the need to conserve; and
- WHEREAS revenues raised by sportsmen and commercial industries have successfully returned some animal species that faced extinction or were threatened or endangered by environmental conditions often imposed by people to healthy populations; and
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- WHEREAS Louisiana residents have spent an \$29.4 million on fishing and hunting licenses during the last three years; and
- WHEREAS the state's warm Gulf waters and fertile estuarine systems are home to more than 100 commercially valuable seafood species, making Louisiana's marine fisheries one of the most important in the nation with more than 1.4 billion pounds landed annually for a dockside value of approximately \$306 million, with more than 150,000 people directly and indirectly employed in harvesting, processing wholesaling, and distribution of Louisiana seafood;

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14th ANNUAL LOUISIANA NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

throughout the state of Louisiana in recognition of the economic contributions of the hunting and fishing industry and in acknowledgement of the sport enjoyed by so many of our citizens.

Thomas M. Gattle Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

FLUCCATE 8-6-78

La.'s attempt to control offshore fisheries fails

By JOAN MCKINNEY
Advocate Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Contradicting each other about their own state government, three Louisiana congressmen ignored the budgetary concerns of Gov. Mike Foster Wednesday as they tried to expand Louisiana's regulatory power over offshore fisheries.

The story underlying the failed effort, however, involved not just fisheries management, but also future control of lucrative offshore oil and gas.

"Our state officials are one with us in this request" for expanded fisheries jurisdiction, U.S. Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-Chackbay, told the House in a floor speech.

But Terry Ryder, Foster's counsel, disagreed when later told of Tauzin's comment.

"There must have been a miscommunication," Ryder said.

Asked if state officials want to take over some of the federal government's policing chores for fisheries, as was dictated by a House appropriations bill, Appropriations Chairman Robert Livingston, R-Metairie, replied, "There may be some mixed feelings on that. We can't say there's 100 percent unanimity."

And in an interview, U.S. Rep. Chris John, D-Crowley, who also backs the fisheries legislation, acknowledged being contacted by Louisiana's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on the issue.

The department's secretary, Jimmy Jenkins Jr., "adamantly" opposes the legislation, John said.

John offered an explanation for why he, Tauzin and Livingston pressed forward anyway: the fisheries legislation could become a precedent to give Louisiana more control over and more money from offshore oil and gas.

In Baton Rouge, Jenkins said he was never consulted on the oil and gas implications of the legislation.

Jenkins said his concern is more immediate — how his department would staff and finance taking over the regulatory job now being done by the U.S. Coast Guard and other federal agencies.

See FISHERIES, Page 4A

Fisheries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"What we're talking about is going from bay boats to offshore boats," he said. "It's pretty expensive equipment."

New employees would be needed to cruise the offshore waters that would be shifted to state control.

Also, his department would have to add fishing data collection systems.

"We'd have to develop plans to manage fish species," he said. "It would take two years to do that, probably."

Jenkins said those concerns mean a last-minute amendment to give the affected states one year to prepare for the turnover is insufficient.

"And even if we did it, there's no doubt somebody would have to pay for it," Jenkins said.

The U.S. House legislation, initiated by Alabama Democrat Sonny Callahan, proposed to extend the fisheries jurisdictions of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to a point about nine miles offshore.

Today, those three states control fisheries for only three miles offshore, where the federal government then takes control.

Callahan said he wanted to chop the jurisdiction of an "out-of-control"

federal agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service.

NMFS has angered some Gulf Coast interests, and pleased others by applying catch limits on red snapper and by requiring shrimpers to put devices in their nets to reduce the unwanted bycatch of fish and sea turtles.

Callahan, Livingston and Tauzin also cast the legislation as an equity issue. Unlike the three-mile offshore zones for Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, Texas and Florida control fisheries for about nine miles offshore.

The difference is traceable to the different laws and treaties that applied when the states came into the Union.

"That doesn't make any sense. What's that got to do with fisheries?" said Livingston. "I'm arguing for uniformity."

When asked whether someone could also argue that states should have "uniformity" in their oil and gas zones, too, Livingston said: "I wouldn't say that's a bad argument."

But that same oil-and-gas argument undermined the legislation in the House after environmental

groups mobilized against both the proposed cut in federal fisheries jurisdiction and the prospect of expanded state control over offshore oil and gas.

To counter, Callahan's office insisted the legislation covered only fisheries and did not affect offshore oil and gas leasing.

Meanwhile, congressmen from Maryland and New York were circulating letters from Foster and from the Gulf Coast Fisheries Management Council.

Those congressmen said the letters proved two things:

- The state of Louisiana can't afford and doesn't want the expanded regulatory task proposed by some of its congressmen.

- Several sectors of the Gulf Coast fishing industry favor retaining federal jurisdiction in the offshore waters at issue.

Foster's letter said the fisheries legislation, as drafted, was "an unfunded mandate," or an example of Congress imposing a job on the states without providing any money to do it.

"If Louisiana is to be given the additional responsibility out to nine

miles in the Gulf of Mexico then it must be provided with all the necessary funding," Foster wrote.

While Callahan and the Louisianians moved to provide a one-year implementation period for the states, they did not add enforcement money to the legislation.

John said he, too, is concerned about the state financing, noting that the early years of expanded state responsibility offshore would be "tough."

"But I believe any time a state can go in and grab ... well, can get jurisdiction rights over property, that's a good thing," he said.

Wayne Gilchrest, R-Md., led the opposition to the fisheries legislation. Gilchrest noted it had been added to an appropriations bill without any congressional committee hearings.

Several other representatives from both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts aligned with Gilchrest and against Callahan and the Louisianians.

Callahan eventually conceded defeat and said he wouldn't insist on a roll call of the House, which then killed his legislation by voice vote.

1998		December			1998	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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☐ See **FISHERIES**, Page 4A

mediators he would halt the offensive amid efforts to arrange negotiations.

Agency says sharks killed Texas turtles

HARLINGEN, Texas — Federal officials declared an end to a marine mystery Wednesday, announcing that 10 mutilated turtles found on the Texas coast were probably victims of sharks, not humans.

That was good news to shrimpers, who felt unfairly blamed by environmental groups for the turtles' deaths.

The investigation into the turtle deaths began last November after 18 endangered or threatened turtles, several of them Kemp's ridleys, washed up on Padre Island National Seashore with missing limbs, severed heads, and straight-edged wounds.

view Wednesday except for a brief stop with Democratic allies on Capitol Hill that focused on the legislative agenda and steered clear of any discussion about the investigation. Pressed by reporters,

was standing nearby when Clinton and Lewinsky hugged. Sullivan said the president asked Lewinsky, "How are you?" and "How's your new position?"

interview. The friend, Regan Burke, was on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Tutsi rebels capture two big Congo cities

By **KAMANGA MUTOND**

Associated Press writer

KINSHASA, Congo — Tutsi rebels reportedly captured two major cities and advanced on a third Wednesday in eastern Congo, where President Laurent Kabila said Rwanda has sent troops to strengthen the



Fisheries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 3-AUG-1998

CURRENT MONTH
07/01/1998 TO 07/31/1998FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/1998 TO 07/31/1998INCEPTION TO DATE
07/31/1998

	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	9	\$1,215.43	9	\$1,215.43	3,602	\$2,470,872.92
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	7	\$175.00	7	\$175.00	157	\$3,925.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	331	\$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	148	\$71,951.21
=====						
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	9	\$1,390.43	9	\$1,390.43	3,602	\$2,276,883.68
PAYMENTS	8	\$1,964.20-	8	\$1,964.20-	2,362	\$399,873.93-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	4	\$716.75-	4	\$716.75-	1,622	\$195,250.97-
OVERPAYMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	99	\$1,827.40
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	38	\$7,360.33
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$18,449.45-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$10,601.49
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	18	\$78,254.09
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$36.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$35.00
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	13	\$10.22-
CREDITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00		
REASSESSMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	19	\$6,567.67
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	54	\$34,095.46-
CREDITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	207	\$138,113.64-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,399.24-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$2.00-	0	\$2.00-	0	\$4,297.59-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	29	\$27,932.90-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00		
=====						
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING			1,010	\$1,562,143.01		

FOOTNOTE:

PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT
AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS

0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	58	\$11,094.67
1	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$2,773.66
	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	3	\$3,202.60 *

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 3-AUG-1998

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN		AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES		AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES	
		0	\$0.00	CAN NOT BE INVOICED CURRENT	
1 - 30 DAYS	1		\$26.40	1 - 30 DAYS	8
31 - 60 DAYS	27		\$33,064.15		3
61 - 90 DAYS	17		\$18,438.15		1
91 - 120 DAYS	5		\$1,930.60	31 - 90 DAYS	
121 - 150 DAYS	14		\$2,654.95		5
151 - 180 DAYS	13		\$16,766.97	91 - 180 DAYS	
181 - 365 DAYS	57		\$41,712.01	181 - 365 DAYS	
OVER ONE YEAR	128		\$81,738.50	CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION	25
OVER TWO YEARS	172		\$154,665.97	OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	27
OVER THREE YEARS	197		\$155,021.98	OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	109
					0
					832
** TOTAL AGING	631		\$506,019.68	** TOTAL AGING	1,010
					\$1,562,145.01

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	Percent Dollars Paid	Percent Cases Paid
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	21,039	(9,778)	29	4,855	2,545		
Aug., 1993	53	44,922	(1,137)	41	7,950	3,603		
Sept., 1993	42	137,635	(17,938)	35	6,783	3,048		
Oct., 1993	49	21,471	(11,282)	40	3,285	1,519		
Nov., 1993	57	31,207	(13,260)	32	3,053	2,845		
Dec., 1993	53	13,777		27	6,507	6,713		
Jan., 1994	38	18,918		32	4,423	2,831		
Feb., 1994	68	38,131	(8,238)	46	9,124	5,993		
Mar., 1994	38	22,739	(2,482)	51	10,854	6,796		
April, 1994	14	44,732	(1,404)	27	7,307	4,632		
May, 1994	10	4,504	(165)	7	5,447	3,808		
June, 1994	29	26,167	(2,986)	12	1,886	1,214		
Total FY 1994	476	425,242	(68,670)	379	71,474	45,547	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	2,127	(335)	23	2,101	1,437		
Aug., 1994	41	96,403	(3,035)	20	1,010	605		
Sept., 1994	34	14,614	(14,002)	26	2,596	2,342		
Oct., 1994	94	17,426	(8,677)	38	2,922	3,179		
Nov., 1994	43	103,592		45	3,992	2,803		
Dec., 1994	68	31,400		35	4,315	2,329		
Jan., 1995	55	27,601		52	7,493	4,921		
Feb., 1995	70	61,119		41	6,472	3,973		
Mar., 1995	31	25,072		44	8,315	4,737		
Apr., 1995	13	15,353		16	3,565	1,538		
May, 1995	23	11,632		16	4,315	654		
June 1995	43	31,008		18	2,630	1,025		
Total FY 1995	534	437,347	(26,049)	374	49,726	29,543	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	0						
Aug., 1995	46	17,425		27	9,028	1,729		
Sept., 1995	1	125		21	3,093	2,049		
Oct., 1995	122	206,244		29	2,720	1,161		
Nov., 1995	55	23,124		62	10,151	6,383		
Dec., 1995	50	18,607		32	4,781	2,803		
Jan., 1996	49	13,815	(15,296)	36	5,297	3,473		
Feb., 1996	50	14,717		38	5,778	3,417		
Mar., 1996	33	24,937		36	6,035	3,422		
Apr., 1996	30	11,007		36	7,173	2,712		
May, 1996	23	7,989		24	3,942	2,020		
June 1996	50	22,151		16	2,790	1,182		
Total FY 1996	509	360,141	(15,296)	357	60,787	30,350	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	71,894		32	5,250	2,948		
Aug., 1996	32	5,363		32	6,255	3,784		
Sept., 1996	41	7,210		29	2,260	1,327		
Oct., 1996	29	11,093		25	3,698	2,262		
Nov., 1996	20	10,009		22	1,625	698		
Dec., 1996	13	238,466		22	5,877	2,122		
Jan., 1997	27	11,755		17	4,393	2,377		
Feb., 1997	47	18,521		42	8,580	5,553		
Mar., 1997	26	13,434		27	5,000	2,758		
Apr., 1997	10	2,909		15	2,323	1,299		
May, 1997	20	11,683		15	5,199	1,399		
June 1997	5	8,037		10	2,335	765		
Total FY 1997	310	410,373	0	288	52,794	27,290	19.5%	92.9%
FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	2,812		8	1,585	823		
Aug., 1997	14	8,741		8	1,496	779		
Sept., 1997	29	19,926		12	2,052	1,278		
Oct., 1997	12	4,717		23	3,185	2,064		
Nov., 1997	23	54,965		10	2,425	1,218		
Dec., 1997	25	36,881		15	4,377	2,776		
Jan., 1998	42	30,026		17	5,300	3,534		
Feb., 1998	37	31,165		29	22,962	8,501		
Mar., 1998	9	13,273		32	9,407	4,372		
Apr., 1998	10	5,628		10	2,603	1,280		
May, 1998	0	225		8	2,885	950		
June 1998	5	2,414		6	1,042	98		
Total FY 1998	216	210,774	0	178	59,317	27,673	41.3%	82.4%
FISCAL YEAR 1998 - 99								
July, 1998	9	1,390		8	1,964	717		
Aug., 1998								
Sept., 1998								
Oct., 1998								
Nov., 1998								
Dec., 1998								
Jan., 1999								
Feb., 1999								
Mar., 1999								
Apr., 1999								
May, 1999								
June 1999								
Total FY 1999	9	1,390	0	8	1,964	717	192.8%	88.9%

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-230

7/31/98

AMENDED AGENDA
COMMISSION MEETING SET

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 6, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 1998
3. Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose & Coot Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits
4. Approval of 1998-99 Migratory Bird Season Dates & Bag Limits
5. Declaration of emergency - Prohibition of using corn to feed wildlife
6. Notice of Intent - 1999 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations
7. Rule - Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly - Grand Bayou Reservoir
8. Declaration of Emergency - 1998 Fall Shrimp Season
9. Declaration of Emergency - 1998-99 Oyster Season, Public Grounds
10. Rule - Dealer Receipt Form
11. Notice of Intent - Harvest Regulations on Billfishes
12. National Hunting and Fishing Day Proclamation
13. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July
14. Division Reports
15. Set December 1998 Meeting Date
16. Public Comments
17. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
18. Adjournment

July 30, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



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C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle, 318-559-1524
Bill Busbice, 318-837-1423
Jerald Hanchey, 318-233-3534
Glynn Carver, 318-256-0323
Norman McCall, 318-775-7025
Tom Kelly, 318-276-7867
Danny Babin, 504-563-4202

Subject: Commission Agenda

Date: July 31, 1998

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

The attached is a revised agenda from the one I sent through the mail yesterday. Item #5 has been added.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-221

7/31/98

HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Hunting Regulations Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, August 6, 1998 in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., will discuss hunting seasons and regulations for migratory birds, ducks and turkeys.

-30-

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-225

7/31/98

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

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-30-

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 27, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hunting Regulations Committee
FROM: Susan Hawkins *Susan Hawkins*
SUBJECT: Committee Meeting

Chairman Tom Gattle has called a meeting of the Hunting Regulations Committee for 9:00 AM, Thursday, August 6, 1998 in the Fourth Floor Conference Room. Items to be discussed will be hunting regulations for migratory birds, ducks and turkeys.

Please let us know if you will be unable to attend. Thank you.

sch

cc: James Jenkins, Jr.
Johnnie Tarver
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Tommy Prickett

Attachment

July 27, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



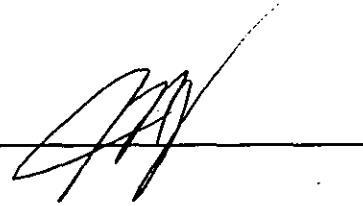
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3. Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose & Coot Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits
4. Approval of 1998-99 Migratory Bird Season Dates & Bag Limits
5. Notice of Intent - 1999 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations
6. Rule - Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir
7. Declaration of Emergency - 1998 Fall Shrimp Season
8. Declaration of Emergency - 1998-99 Oyster Season, Public Grounds
9. Rule - Dealer Receipt Form
10. Notice of Intent - Harvest Regulations on Billfishes
11. National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation
12. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July
13. Division Reports
14. Set December 1998 Meeting Date
15. Public Comments
16. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
17. Adjournment

July 27, 1998

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AJ', is written over a horizontal line that serves as a signature line.

HUNTING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Hunting Regulations Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, August 6, 1998, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM, will be to discuss hunting seasons and regulations for migratory birds, ducks and turkeys.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800
July 27, 1998

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: August Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 6, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 1998

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

3. Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose & Coot Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits
4. Approval of 1998-99 Migratory Bird Season Dates & Bag Limits
5. Notice of Intent - 1999 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

6. Rule - Netting Prohibition, John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir
7. Declaration of Emergency - 1998 Fall Shrimp Season
8. Declaration of Emergency - 1998-99 Oyster Season, Public Grounds
9. Rule - Dealer Receipt Form

Page 2
Commission Meeting
July 27, 1998

10. Notice of Intent - Harvest Regulations on Billfishes

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

11. National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation

WINTON VIDRINE

12. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July

13. Division Reports

14. Set December 1998 Meeting Date

15. Public Comments

16. Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Jim Patton
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: August Meeting

Date: July 23, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached agenda and then give me a call. Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: August Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 6, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
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OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

3. Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose & Coot Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits
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Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 1998

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INFORMATION & EDUCATION

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JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Jim Patton
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 6, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Friday, July 17 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, August 6th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on August 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

Wildlife Div. Agenda Items

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

- 1- Recommendations for 1998-99 Duck, Goose and Coot Hunting SEASONS AND Bag limits - R. Helm*
- 2- Approval of Mig. Birds Season Dates AND Bag limits Announced at July Meeting - D. Morrison*
- 3- NoI for 1999 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations - Mike Olvide*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 17, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Johnnie Tarver, Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife

FROM: Hugh A. Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division *AB*

SUBJECT: Aug. 6,'98 Comm. Meeting, Wildl. Div. Items

We will have 3 items on the August Commission Meeting Agenda:

(1) Recommendations on bag limits and dates for the 1998-99 duck, goose, and coot hunting seasons. Robert Helm will make the presentation. He will show a short FWS video on the FALL FLIGHT FORECAST. What ever the Commission sets will be tentative and will have to be *formally* ratified at the September meeting. The Sec. will have authority to make changes, if necessary.

(2) Ratify previous season dates and bag limits for migratory birds set at last(July) meeting. Dave Morrison will make the presentation. The Secretary had authority to make changes, if necessary. There were none so this is just a brief formality.

(3) Notice of Intent for 1999 Spring Turkey Hunting Regs.,(copy attached). Mike Olinde will make the presentation and use or reference the Turkey Hunter Opinion Survey results to support changes in the regulations. Some changes propossed will be controversial and the public can be expected to be there to comment.

CC: Prickett,Morrison,Olinde, Helm,Kimmel, Timmer

REC'D

JUL 17 1998

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 6, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 1998

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

Please add the following to the agenda for the August meeting:

Ratify the Netting Prohibition on
John K. Kelly/Grand Bayou Reservoir.

Thanks,
Bennie Fontenot

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
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M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 6, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 1998

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JHJ/sch

return to Korn by July 15, 1998

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

Harvest regulations - Billfishes

ROUTING LIST	DATE:
BOUDREAU	
FOOTE	
BOUDREAU	7-15-98
BLANCHET	
DUGAS	7-15-98
HANIFEN	7-15-98
SANOTE	
SCHENAYDER	7/19/98
SHEPARD	7/19/98
Trumble	
Thomas	7/19

*19/99
Oyster season
Public grounds*

fall shrimp season

*Dealer Receipt Form
Rat of Rise*

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Finley

*to Susan Hawkins
John Russell*

7-15-98

Marine Fisheries

Harvest Regulations - Billfishes - Blanchet

Fall Shrimp Season - Schenayder

98/99 oyster season public grounds - Dugas

*Final Rule Ratification - Dealer
Receipt Form - Shepard*

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 1998 3:20 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Subject: agenda item

I spoke with Roussel- we will have the Commission ratify the final rule for Dealer Forms= one more chance for public input. Thanks.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
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M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 6, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
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Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

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Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat *no*
Phil Bowman

*1. Marianne Burke - National
Hunting & Fishing Day
Proclamation*

State of Louisiana



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July 6, 1998

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Ed. Report
WV

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
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M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
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July 6, 1998

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